

# SigEp Journal



Sigma Phi Epsilon  
FALL 2011

## SigEps & start-ups

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Bert Harris III, Florida '75, received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Florida, and he completed a J.D. from Florida State in 1979. He is the attorney for the town of Lake Placid, Fla., where his practice areas include civil litigation, real property and land use.

In 1993, Harris was appointed as a trustee of the National Housing Corporation (which became SigEp National Housing, LLC, in 2009). He served as president of the National Housing Corporation from 1995 through 2009. Harris was elected to the National Board of Directors in 2003, and he was elected Grand Secretary of the Board in 2009. At the 2011 Conclave in Phoenix, Ariz., Harris became the 55th Grand President of Sigma Phi Epsilon.

## It all starts with the undergraduate experience

Some extraordinary men have left their mark on our Fraternity over the years, and I have had the fortune of learning first-hand from many of them. Past Grand President Garry Kief is one of those extraordinary men.

Brother Kief took office during difficult economic times in our country. He didn't use that as an excuse to maintain the status quo. He created urgency to improve our Fraternity. He turned challenges into opportunities, and as a result, Sigma Phi Epsilon achieved enormous success on his watch.

I am honored by the opportunity to pick up where Brother Kief left off and work with you to build on our recent success.

To continue our growth, we must concentrate on the objectives of our strategic plan and keep in mind what really contributes to an exceptional SigEp experience.

### Improve the undergraduate experience

Improving the undergraduate experience will be the central focus of our work over these next two years.

As a Fraternity, we must acknowledge and embrace the fact that today's college students are dramatically different from those of previous generations. Today's students have never known the world without the Internet, and technology is playing a central role in their life. It affects how students act, how they communicate, how they learn, and what they expect from their college experience.

SigEp has made significant progress in the realm of technology, and we need to continue considering how we leverage it to make member development more engaging.

We also know that our undergraduates cannot thrive without continued focus on volunteer support. Whether they are alumni, professors or parents, volunteers provide the guidance our chapters need to be excellent over time. They are also critical to programming

for our upperclassmen, who are too often neglected in our Fraternity.

SigEp must provide value to all of its members, not just the new ones. Many undergraduate brothers leave the Fraternity each year. They tell us that they need to focus on their future. SigEp should be a part of that future, helping each member graduate and successfully transition to a profession or post-graduate program.

### Align the Fraternity, the Foundation and SENH

Aligning the focus and resources of all three SigEp organizations will open our eyes to untapped potential. The Fraternity, the Educational Foundation and SigEp National Housing, LLC all have the same cause—Building Balanced Men—and each makes a unique contribution toward that goal.

Opportunities abound to integrate planning, connect processes and expand projects to include the resources and perspectives of each organization. This alignment will benefit our undergraduate brothers by enriching their experience, one that our alumni, host institutions and parents of current and future SigEps will be proud to support.

### Improve housing

Our chapter houses are homes away from home for our members and visible symbols of SigEp's commitment to higher education.

A SigEp facility should be the premier living and learning environment on a college campus; it should be a Residential Learning Community that provides benefits unavailable anywhere else on campus.

For that dream to become reality, we need our alumni. We need our alumni brothers to recall that, in many cases, other brothers gave their time, talent, and treasure so that future SigEps could have a home.

Our chapters cannot borrow their way into the best facilities on campus. Like the brothers that came before us, we must give

our time, talent and treasure to increase the number of construction and renovation projects, and improve the quality of resources supporting property management.

### Promote our excellence

Generating positive local publicity and national exposure about the innovative programs and the valuable work of the Fraternity will open up the doors of opportunity.

The media and our critics like to focus on the problems of fraternities. Our positive, inspiring and impressive stories exponentially outnumber the negative ones, but we must assure our great accomplishments are widely known.

Today's world offers more channels than ever before to highlight our successes. Let's make it easy for everyone to discover what the SigEp experience can do for a college student.

### Attend to the fundamentals

Focusing on the core areas of chapter operations (recruitment, development, academics, fiscal health, volunteers, and housing) has allowed SigEp to reach several historic benchmarks the last two years. We recruited 10 percent more members in the 2010-11 academic year than in the previous year; we grew to 16,000 undergraduate members at the time of 2011 graduations; we surpassed the 3.10 all-member grade point average in spring 2010; and we engaged more than 2,500 volunteers in support of the SigEp experience.

We have seen the impact of a laser focus on the fundamentals. We have to keep at it. The SigEp experience happens at the chapter level. My intention is to keep our focus right there, on our chapters, right where it belongs.

**BERT HARRIS III**  
Grand President

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### Journal field reporters

Steve Dorsey, American '09  
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Jonathan B. Greenstein, Illinois State '11  
Joshua Gutierrez, Cal State-San Bernardino '09  
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Kevin Lynch, Maryland-College Park '08  
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Tyler Manoukian, Massachusetts '13  
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Patrick Murphy, Christopher Newport '05  
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Brian Shawn, North Dakota '02  
Ryan Sugden, Wisconsin '06  
Kevin Teets, Tennessee-Martin '06  
David Wenzel, Cincinnati '06  
Trey Wydysh, Richmond '07





# Reader's Guide

## The *SigEp Journal*

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The *SigEp Journal* is published by Sigma Phi Epsilon, founded in 1901, for undergraduates and alumni of the Fraternity. The *Journal* strives to show how the SigEp experience has improved the lives of undergraduates and alumni over time, to encourage involvement and financial support, and to instill pride in the mission and accomplishments of the Fraternity.

### Submissions

Deadlines for submitting articles, photos and story ideas for the *Journal* come in the following weeks each year: Spring: February 1; Fall: July 1. E-mail submissions to [communications@sigep.net](mailto:communications@sigep.net). Send submissions to Journal Editor, Sigma Phi Epsilon, 310 South Boulevard, Richmond, Virginia 23220.

The *Journal* welcomes all submissions. For more detailed guidelines, go to [www.sigep.org/publications](http://www.sigep.org/publications). Decisions to publish material we have received is based on the sole discretion of the editorial staff.

### Letters to the editor

The *Journal* welcomes your comments and perspective on what you read here and other issues related to the Fraternity. Send your e-mail to [journal@sigep.net](mailto:journal@sigep.net). Please include your name, school and graduation year. Letters may be edited for clarity and space.

### Advertising

Advertising is accepted in half-page or full page increments. Deadlines for artwork: Spring: March 1; Fall: August 1. For ad specifications, please e-mail [journal@sigep.net](mailto:journal@sigep.net).

### Subscriptions

The *Journal* is mailed to every member with an active address in our database. Ten copies are mailed to chapter presidents. If members move, they need to update their address at [www.sigep.org/update.asp](http://www.sigep.org/update.asp). Parents or members can send an e-mail to [address.update@sigep.net](mailto:address.update@sigep.net) with a new address to keep SigEp records current.

### The SigEp Journal

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### Get connected!



The 52nd Grand Chapter Conclave was held at the beautiful JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort in Phoenix, Ariz.

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*Vacant districts not listed*



# 50 years ago in SigEp...1961

A few  
interesting  
items from  
the *Journal*  
that year.

## 60th anniversary Conclave

The 60th anniversary Conclave was held in Chicago at the Drake Hotel, September 4-7, 1961. For the first time ever, no Founder was present to inspire the gathering and this was a great loss. The Conclave's delegation adopted the ducal crown as the alumni emblem and recognition button. Also, this Conclave marked the establishment of a *Journal* Fund into which each member initiated on or after July 1, 1962, shall then receive a life subscription to the *Journal*.

## Purpose of Fraternity

Words of guidance from SigEp's Grand President **Maynard Turner, Washington '22**, when asked, "What is the purpose of a college fraternity?"

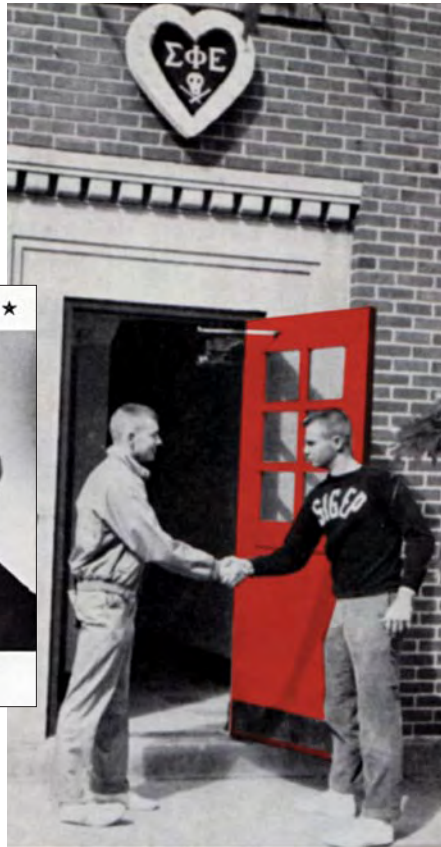


★ 62,000TH SIG EP ★  
**JOHN YOUNG**  
Iowa State University  
John W. Young, Iowa State '65, was initiated as the 62,000th SigEp by the Iowa Beta Chapter on April 22, 1961.



Nov. '61 *Journal* cover shows Maynard Turner awarding the Order of the Golden Heart to Edwin Buchanan.

It is for, "the betterment of man. While aiding the college man to accomplish his main objective of obtaining an academic education, the Fraternity provides a home for happy living with brothers of similar philosophy in a constructive atmosphere where education in the correct social approach is evident. A man is a better man for having lived a fraternity life."



Bowling Green's Red Door; February '61 *Journal*

## Ten great years at Boston

The Boston University Chapter celebrated its 10th anniversary the weekend of November 11. Brothers return in record numbers to observe ten years of solid progress for the chapter.

## Purdue house addition

A new addition to the Purdue chapter house is taking shape. The addition will include 18 study rooms, a third-floor dorm and a utility room and kitchen in the basement. Also, the current house is undergoing some remodeling with a total cost of \$250,000 for both projects. The capacity of the new house will be 95 men; 50 men live in the present house. The completion date is set for September 1.

## Voice against hazing

Voice of The Fraternity featured a letter to the Toledo Blade newspaper about hazing which was written by then-undergraduate **Chuck Eberly, Bowling Green State '63**. The letter addresses the reservations parents of college freshmen might have towards fraternities. Eberly stated that, "Fraternities provide a family of brotherhood, a home away from home, intellectual encouragement and most important of all, an excellent sense of moral and religious value so important in the world of today."



Boston's five founding officers assembled for their 10th anniversary (Feb. '61). SigEp returned to campus in spring 2011 after a 13-year absence.



Bruce Hasenkamp and William Widnall, November '61 *Journal*

## Hasenkamp named DG

**Bruce H. Hasenkamp, Dartmouth '60**, is named a new district governor for Sigma Phi Epsilon. Hasenkamp also serves as the chapter counselor for the chapter at San Jose State. A rising star in the Fraternity, he is a second-year law student at Stanford. This past summer, he worked in the Washington office of Congressman William B. Widnall under a legislative internship program and, "has an amazing capacity for hard work as well as for gifted leadership."

## Renaissance brother

The Florida State Chapter said thank you to a chapter brother's father by making **Gordon Earley** a Renaissance Brother. "I was greatly surprised and honored to be asked to become a member of your Fraternity," he said. Earley, a master electrician, made a new sign for the chapter house, replicating the badge, as the original sign had weathered. **Charles Earley, Florida State '65**, was the chapter's house manger and felt like a new sign was in order, so he asked his father about making a new sign.

**"A man is a better man for  
having lived a fraternity life."**

~ MAYNARD TURNER, WASHINGTON '22



## Crushing the stereotype one family at a time

Soon after our 52nd Conclave, past Grand President Garry Kief received an e-mail, edited for space, from a resort guest.

Dear Mr. Kief,

Friday afternoon my family and I checked into the JW Marriott Desert Ridge. I noticed a lot of college-age guys milling around and immediately started to panic, even more when I found out that they were all here for a fraternity conference. I was beginning to form explanations to tell my 3-year-old daughter about the behavior she was seeing. I have to tell you though, I was pleasantly surprised.

My fears were beginning to subside when one of the SigEps held the elevator for my family, called me sir and even assisted with one of our bags when he heard my daughter ask me to hold her!! When we got poolside on Saturday, there was no heavy drinking and no rudeness going on. I had the pleasure of floating in the "lazy river" with some of the guys from the USC chapter, and they were friendly and knew how to hold a conversation with someone they've never met before.

A year ago, my wife and I were at the same hotel and had a horrible experience. I was really worried history was going to repeat itself, but your guys actually made it a more positive experience for my family. Thank you for training up the next generation of men and teaching them to be "Balanced Men."

Sincerely,

**BEN COBERLY**



Brothers at Conclave changed the mindset of one resort guest by acting with thoughtfulness and respect.



Wisconsin Beta's new chapter house was rebuilt after a 2008 fire. It was completed for the fall 2011 semester.

## Wisconsin's new chapter facility: From fire to fantastic

On May 13, 2008, the day after a fire destroyed the house at Wisconsin, a place I called home for two years, my fellow alumni volunteers and I worked to tackle the innumerable problems we now faced. Twenty-five brothers were suddenly without housing, clothes or books. Parents rightly worried about the safety of their sons, and they looked to us for answers.

Yet, I was already wondering how it would feel to step inside a rebuilt chapter house. Indeed, whether our Fraternity would recover and rebuild was never in doubt. But, for me, many other questions hung in the balance: How long would it take to rebuild? What would the new house look like? And years from now, would those young men taking up residence in a beautiful new chapter house ever understand those first frantic days as we confronted our smoldering new reality?

Thankfully I learned, when I recently toured a now rebuilt Wisconsin Beta chapter house, that the 36 new residents have put the three-year-old fire right where it belongs—in the past. Of course,

as I admired the new full-service kitchen, library, parlor and outdoor half-basketball court, I couldn't help but compare the new house to the worn out facility it replaced. The new residents, on the other hand, were interested in giving tours and talking about the possibilities for the chapter in its gleaming new home.

For me, for those who were there that night three years ago and for the alumni volunteers who put in countless hours to make the new house a reality, this might be the most sincere sense of fulfillment we could ask for. Three years after we lost our structural and sentimental home, our chapter is looking forward to a bright future.

**RYAN SUGDEN**  
Wisconsin, '06

*Sugden, now in law school at Washington in St. Louis, was a public relations specialist for the state of Wisconsin at the time of the fire and helped manage the crisis that displaced 25 men. The new house, opened for the fall 2011 semester, will hold 36.*

Please send your comments or letters to the editor to [journal@sigep.net](mailto:journal@sigep.net), or mail to SigEp Headquarters, 310 S. Boulevard, Richmond VA 23220. Letters may be edited for clarity and length.



## Fill in the blank: The best part about being a SigEp is...



On July 13, we posed the question above on Facebook. These are some of our favorite answers.

### Caleb Massey

The catalyst of a brotherhood to help me strive for a balanced life. There is no Inspiration like Brotherly Love.

### Charles G. Eberly

that my brothers helped me to develop purpose and meaning in my life.

### Brian Walter

getting the opportunity and the support to become a better man.

### Mihailos Vasilios Dedes

Is having a blue print on how to live my life.

### Mike Cook

Brothers you will have for the rest of your life.

### Tom Wiggins

My son Woody (Cal Delta) is also my brother ;)

### Norm Evans

ALL OF THE ABOVE - Great to be a SIGEP!!!

## Your posts and tweets about Conclave 2011:



Literally hundreds of people tweeted about Conclave using the #SigEpConclave hashtag. Attendees watched their tweets pop up on the flat screen near the registration area. Below are a few of our Facebook posts and tweets for the week.

### Gavin Bonar

Thank you for a truly unforgettable experience. I've learned so much about being a good brother and how to live my values. You can expect to see me at every conclave for the rest of my life.

### Holly Evans Smart

Thanks for posting the pictures on FB. Both my husband and son are there so I feel like I can share in the experience. Looks like you all are having a grand time. And what a beautiful place!!!

### Adam Easterling

Today I was at my school helping with the dorm move in and when I was leaving I saw two older ladies trying to fix a flat tire on their car. I stopped and thought about all the inspirational stories at conclave, so I stopped and helped them! Made me feel great.

### Dustin Ryan Nelson; @DNelDigs

Ritual time! The absolute best part of being a SigEp! Joining as one with our brothers at #SigEpConclave. @officialsigep

### David Graziano; @djgraziano

I was just in the same room as "The Greatest" and he was surrounded by the greatest. #SigEpConclave. Wow

### Adam Ritz; @AdamRitz

On plane leaving Phoenix. Went to conclave to change lives...and it was my life that was changed. THANK YOU ALL #SigEpConclave

### Justin Chavez; @justinchavez

I'm going to build a lazy river at my house when I get back. #SigEpConclave

# SigEp is praised for modeling the way

By **BRIAN WARREN**, Virginia '04  
Executive Director

On August 24, 2011, *The New York Times* published an opinion piece from Cornell University President David Skorton. Compelled by recent hazing events on his campus that resulted in the death of a freshman, Skorton called for change.

He stated that, "I directed student leaders of Cornell's Greek chapters to develop a system of member recruitment and initiation that does not involve 'pledging'—the performance of demeaning or dangerous acts as a condition of membership."

If you haven't read the article, you should. (Go to [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com) and search for David Skorton from the last 12 months.) You will be proud to wear our letters. It specifically praises SigEp's development model and truly separates us from the negativity surrounding Cornell's Greek system.

At the same time, I cannot help but be concerned by other comments in the editorial and what they suggest about the reputation of Greek life. Consider President Skorton's definition of pledging. It sounds a lot like the legal definition of hazing in most states.

There are 19 fraternities at Cornell. My guess is that our chapter in Ithaca faces a challenge every day not to follow the norms of their community.

I suspect many of our chapters face the same challenge every day as well.

Since 1901, SigEp has prided itself on being different. Being different is hard work, but our colleges and universities need the development-focused, SigEp-style of Fraternity, especially now.

After significant cuts over the past several years, many of our host institutions are being forced to make further cuts in spending as state and federal funding disappears. What is going to happen to the student experience, both inside and outside of the classroom?

We are experiencing an evolution in higher education. This is a time

for SigEp to flex its muscles—to showcase the value of our continuous development program, our volunteer mentors, our leadership programs and our scholarship as an opportunity to fill a void left in the wake of funding challenges.

The leader at one of the most respected institutions of higher learning has elevated us to the national stage because we are doing something right. He wants others to emulate us. As we go to press, more than 4,000 people who read the op-ed article clicked on a link to SigEp's website, wondering what makes our Fraternity different from the others.

They will be able to read about it on the web. Will they see it first-hand on your campus?

**"Since 1901, SigEp has prided itself on being different. Being different is hard work, but our colleges and universities need the development-focused, SigEp-style of Fraternity, especially now."**

~ BRIAN WARREN

an impressive level, and cultivate such remarkable men, that your university president is compelled to write his or her newspaper applauding the efforts of SigEp. We have an incredible story to tell. What if every university president was helping us tell it?

My hope is yes.

My challenge to each of our chapters is to raise your operations. Provide a member development program that is the envy of every student on campus. Recruit faculty fellows. Engage alumni in career-focused programming. Retain your members, graduate the best and brightest students, and produce the most successful alumni.

Raise your operations to such





## Red Door Notes

The red door on SigEp chapter houses started at Syracuse University in 1928. While not the only factor in a high-performing chapter, well-appointed chapter facilities establish the foundation for creating the right experience through efforts like the Balanced Man Program and Residential Learning Communities.



Ric Sweeney, Cincinnati Renaissance (left), and Kyle Sutton, Cincinnati '12, discuss plans to offer a class at the house this semester.

## Undergraduates initiate changes at Cincinnati

By **KYLE SUTTON**, Cincinnati '12

The Ohio Theta Chapter at Cincinnati puts academics before anything else. Brothers prioritize the classroom so much that they brought the classroom into the chapter house. That's right, two of the chapter's faculty fellows teach a course for university credit every autumn and spring quarter in the chapter house. The classes range from personal finance to group branding. Brothers even invite a different sorority every quarter to take the class with them.

The chapter hosts the class in their cafeteria/chapter meeting room/classroom. The brothers fitted the space with a white board, flipchart and a projection screen to mirror all the amenities of the classrooms on campus.

Last summer, the brothers made their Residential Learning Community even more conducive to learning. The undergraduates took it upon themselves to turn their inefficient and cluttered library into a study space to rival those of the campus libraries. The library gained seven new workstations, custom woodwork and four new computers. It is no coincidence that the library growth was accompanied by a rise in the chapter's average GPA.

This past summer the brothers turned their attention to the social space of the house. What used to be two separate rooms is now one large room that is open and inviting. The brothers took out their hammers and demolished a wall, leaving behind a large space to host family and friends. The new

space is equipped with new granite countertops and a newly refinished pool table, purple of course.

The need for the larger, open space was identified after the Parent's Day the brothers held for their Balanced Man Scholarship applicants and their parents. The new space allows for the chapter to showcase their large outdoor patio and host the 90 parents and scholars with ease.

The best part of all of these renovations is that they were completed and financed by the undergraduate brothers. They recognized that if they wanted something done to improve the home in which they lived, they were capable of making it happen.

## Ohio State Chapter adds academic space and upgrades systems

By **MICHAEL D. REPASKY**, Ohio State '08

During summer 2011, Ohio State's Ohio Gamma Chapter facility underwent nearly \$500,000 of renovations. The project aimed to expand educational space, make for a more comfortable living environment for all residents—including the chapter's live-in faculty fellow, Matt Stolzhus or Dr. Fus as he is called—and bring the facility up to safety and fire code.

The facility's library/study room has been expanded to accommodate larger group meetings and serve as a conference room for chapter committees. The room is equipped with new furniture, including bookcases and desks, as well as new amenities such as a dry erase wall and updated audio-visual

equipment to accommodate today's technologically savvy student.

The bulk of the project entailed upgrading the heating system and installing central air conditioning. This required the temporary removal of many walls in the hallways and all ceilings. The enhancement is greatly appreciated by all members, especially those living in the facility.

With such invasive changes taking place inside the facility, project planners took the opportunity to update the life-safety mechanisms. All fire alarm and smoke detector



Upgrades to the Ohio State Chapter facility balance recreation and academics with TV and game room as well as a library and study area.

units have been replaced and most importantly, the house has sprinklers in each common area and in each individual sleeping room. Parents will rest easy knowing their child is in a safe, secure facility while away from home.

In addition to the major renovations, the interior was painted, lighting was upgraded and carpet was replaced where necessary. The improvements to the facility will allow the chapter to continue to exemplify the Residential Learning Community model, retain and recruit more outstanding faculty and alumni to support individual member and chapter development, and pursue the Fraternity's mission of Building Balanced Men.

Special appreciation goes to three Ohio Gamma brothers, all instrumental in the success of this project. Then-Alumni and Volunteer Corporation President **John Waggoner**, '69, coordinated the project for several months, from conception to completion. **Mike Maistros**, '96, served as the architect for the project through his own architecture firm. Finally, the room has been sponsored by Ohio Gamma brother **James Pfeifer**, '60, and will be designated as the James E. Pfeifer Library.





## Dartmouth opens new chapter house

By JONATHAN KUCERA, Virginia '71

On June 18, Dartmouth College's New Hampshire Alpha Alumni and Volunteer Corporation recognized the completion of their new, four-story chapter house with a special housewarming reception. This event coincided with the Dartmouth Commencement and Reunions Week, and honored alumni who contributed significant time, money, and organizational efforts to the project.

The replacement of the old house on Webster Street (across from the college president's house) gathered momentum about two years ago. Fundraising and Finance Chairperson **Bob Wetzel, '76**, leveraged a loan into a \$3 million financing package, including over \$900,000 in alumni pledges.

Congratulations to the entire AVC, headed by President **Keith Jacobsen, '97**, for driving this project to completion in record time, nine months from tearing down the old house to completing the new house. The new SigEp home will accommodate over 25 brothers in 11,400 square feet, including a large chapter room, a bedroom equipped for the disabled, a meeting room for balanced man programming and continuous development, weekend kitchen, and social activity spaces in the basement level opening onto a future outdoor patio.



Clockwise from top: Over 100 chapter alumni attended house warming activities. Tucker Foundation Dean Richard Crocker provided a blessing for the new structure and all those who will enjoy it. Housewarming co-chair Herb Philpott, '85, left, welcomes SigEp National Housing Director Jonathan Kucera, Virginia '71, to the house he helped design. The house increases the residential capacity by 25 percent, and features the Theodor "Dr. Seuss" Geisel, '25, front porch. AVC President Keith Jacobsen, '97, left, listens to the housewarming presentation.







## Virginia Tech project solidifies higher education partnership

By **CHARLOTTE STAPLES**, Executive Assistant, Real Estate Operations

On September 3, Virginia Tech's Virginia Kappa Chapter broke ground on the newest and most innovative phase of the university's on-campus Greek housing community.

While the current chapter house has served as a living and learning center for the past 40 years, encroaching development and the passage of time have made ongoing maintenance of the facility expensive and unfit for the growing chapter's objectives.

Through the combined efforts of the Alumni and Volunteer Corporation (especially **Don McNamara, '75**, and **John Lawson, '75**) and Virginia Tech, a unique partnership was developed.

The terms of the partnership require the chapter to contribute one-third of the construction cost of the house, while the university contributes two-thirds. Additionally, Virginia Tech has established an account for the chapter to receive tax-deductible contributions towards their commitment.

Virginia Kappa has entered a 50-year renewable lease for exclusive use of the university-owned and -maintained chapter house, including the cost of a full-time, live-in house director. This partnership satisfies the university's desire to strengthen its Greek system and increase additional on-campus residential space. Virginia Kappa meets

its need for improved long-term housing.

The partnership also allows the chapter to participate in facility design. The \$4 million facility, the first to be built on Oak Lane Phase IV, will set the bar of excellence for future facilities. The house, designed to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standards, ensures energy efficient operations. It includes an apartment for the house director and various aspects associated with a Residential Learning Community (RLC), to create a living/learning environment that puts the chapter on track for RLC accreditation in the future. Accommodating up to 36 brothers, the house will encompass a quiet study area, library, conference room and exercise room.

Virginia Kappa believes this opportunity is essential to continue its legacy of excellence and leadership. Executive Project Manager **William Thomas Jr., '72**, said, "When we first began the project, our goal was to build a new SigEp house that would serve Virginia Kappa for generations to come. But as we partnered with the university, our vision quickly broadened from building a fantastic new SigEp house to one of helping to raise the entire Virginia Tech Greek community to a higher level of excellence."



Left to right: Chapter President Thomas Norelli, '12, Virginia Tech's Vice President of Student Affairs, Ed Spencer, University President Charles Steger, John Lawson, '75, and William Thomas Jr., '72, break ground for the new SigEp facility at Virginia Tech.



# Brother meets challenges of autism with his chapter's help

By JOHN MIZE, Oregon '02

Like so many recent graduates, **Darrius Frazier, Eastern Illinois '11**, a sports broadcasting major, is on a mission to find a job and begin his career. However, Brother Frazier faces a host of challenges that most people don't have to conquer. Frazier lives with Asperger's syndrome, a mild form of autism, which is the fastest growing developmental disability in the United States. His accomplishments to date are noteworthy as most on the autism spectrum will never graduate from college let alone seek a career in such a high-profile profession as sports broadcasting. SigEp has meant a great deal to Frazier and he credits the Fraternity with offering him an environment that helped him overcome his challenges.

Autism is a complex developmental disability that wreaks havoc on an individual's ability to process information, communicate, and interact with others. This disorder affects individuals on a spectrum, presenting itself with various symptoms and levels of severity. Studies have shown that early diagnosis and intervention lead to significantly improved outcomes and better levels of functioning for those on the autism spectrum.

Autism is reaching an epidemic level in the U.S. About one in 110 children are diagnosed with autism and the prevalence is an astonishing one in 70 among boys. Today, 60 families will learn that their child has autism.

Roughly 5.4 percent of Americans are affected by autism in some way, either as an individual, family member or caretaker. Of 290,000 SigEp members, nearly 15,000 are impacted in some way with a sibling, child, grandchild, cousin, or other relative who suffers from autism.

Autism also creates a number of challenges for families with children on the spectrum. Insurance does not cover many early intervention treatments that can result in drastic improvements, creating a significant financial burden on many families. Parents with children on the spectrum avoid public places for fear of an autistic meltdown, and siblings of an autistic child pay a price by giving up equal treatment from parents and families. According to one father with a child on the spectrum, "There is a strain on any marriage whenever a baby is sick. And we always have a sick baby."

Life with autism can create many social challenges, and the Illinois Nu Chapter helped Frazier gain improved social skills as well as create a network of friends who were always there to help. According to Frazier, "The main focus during my first year in the Fraternity house was building social skills. I learned to communicate with a variety of people, and their support helped me tremendously to incorporate those strategies in my everyday life."

Frazier was initially introduced to SigEp via Dr. Gail Richard, the chairwoman of the Communication Disorders Department who reached out to Chapter Counselor and Order of the Golden Heart Recipient **Dr. Charles Eberly, Bowling Green State '63**, regarding an introduction to the chapter. Dr. Eberly arranged for Frazier to live at the Fraternity house where he quickly began to settle into the chapter. "The Fraternity is known for the Balanced Man Program, which entails



Darrius Frazier (left) volunteered to do video interviews of Conclave attendees for the SigEp Communications team. Despite the challenges of autism, Frazier completed college with a major in sports broadcasting.

**Roughly 5.4 percent of Americans are affected by autism in some way either as an individual, family member or caretaker.**

being physically strong, academically alert, and morally straight. I use those principles and incorporate them in my life as much as possible," said Frazier.

This summer a group of generous SigEp alumni helped sponsor a trip for Frazier to the SigEp Conclave, where he advocated on behalf of a possible partnership between the Fraternity and the Autism Society of America. The central goal of the partnership is to increase the opportunity to reach out and recruit disabled young men as well as other service-related opportunities.

"Having autism, it makes me appreciate the gift that God has given me and it would be only fitting if I contribute to society with my gifts," said Frazier. SigEp Headquarters tapped into Frazier's gifts by giving him videographer duties to capture the reactions of SigEp members after major speakers and events.

Darrius Frazier has an amazing story of triumph and determination, and his story epitomizes our fraternal values of Virtue, Diligence, and Brotherly Love.



John Mize, lives in Richmond, Va., with his wife and three children, including Kensington who also lives with autism. Mize is a volunteer with the Autism Society and his government relations firm, Cassidy & Associates, represents the Autism Society in Washington as a pro-bono client. For more information please contact Mize at john\_m\_mize@yahoo.com.



## Chapters create unique programs to enhance academics

By JOSHUA GUTIERREZ, Cal State-San Bernardino '09

With a market that covers almost any competitive game imaginable, fantasy sports has captured the attention of even the most marginal sports fan. Through its competitive nature, fans are required to choose the best players from the world's best teams in order to create a type of "ultra team." Well, what if that team was composed of players whose leading statistic was their GPA?

In summer 2009, New Jersey Zeta SigEps at Rider University noticed something critical about their chapter's GPA; although it had been slightly above a 3.0 for the past few years, it had reached a plateau. Fortunately, they also recognized a pattern connected to this plateau.

### Watching the mid-range

Like many SigEp chapters struggling to raise GPA, Rider's main concern was the members whose GPA settled in the 2.8-3.2 range. Although the chapter had



Rider took an academic spin on fantasy football to get its GPA moving again.

certain outlier GPAs far above or far below the chapter mean, these mid-range GPAs tended to comprise most of the chapter and thus tended to define what the overall GPA looked like.

"The chapter decided we would use competition to raise our grades and motivate one another," said Chapter President Mike Blake, Rider '12.

In fall 2009, the chapter created Fantasy Academics, a competitive form of fantasy sports that required captains to choose members based on GPA, rather than athletic skill. The rules were simple: the top six GPAs in the chapter were



A team of sound mind partners study in the Tribble Library on the Christopher Newport campus. Left to right: Trevon Kirkland, '13, Hakeem Blake, '12, Kevin Hawkins Jr., '11, and Timothy Beuerle, '11. The chapter created an academic competition based on a point system and awarded prizes like iPods.

chosen as captains and would pick five teammates. Whichever team had the highest overall GPA at the end of the semester would be the winner. The small teams would allow captains to provide individual attention to those with mid-range GPAs, and to ensure that GPA was paramount among chapter members.

"The top priority for member development is to ensure that chapter members are both physically and mentally healthy. Education is a critical part of this development," Blake said.

Like Rider, members at Christopher

deal with the "grades problem" before it occurred.

"The only time we reacted towards grades was close to the end of the semester. We decided it was time to be proactive instead of reactive," Gunst said.

Virginia Pi's point system is more of an incentive system, where grades determine which types of prizes chapter members could earn. Through the incentive system, members earn points which they can redeem for an iPod, founder's badge polo, or even SigEp car mats. In order to earn the incentives, members must not only keep their grades up, but their teammate's grades as well. The point system is based on an individual member's GPA, combined with their partners' GPAs.

Although both chapters had increases in their chapter GPAs, Blake and Gunst recognized that the programs were not perfect at first, and that improvements had to be made. For any chapters attempting these academic plans, or any strategies of their own, Blake and Gunst have some tips:

- Brainstorm and attempt *proactive* rather than *reactive* methods to raise GPA.
- Get buy-in from the chapter, so if people are bought in to an idea you may want to try sticking with it. You have to move on if something has failed and members are not bought in.
- Bring in an element of competition.
- Group members according to major, GPA, or age.
- Find ways to create mentors for new chapter members.
- Keep trying new things. You're not going to find one thing that's going to fix GPA, and even if it does, it doesn't mean grades are going to immediately go up.

**"The top priority for member development is to ensure that chapter members are both physically and mentally healthy. Education is a critical part of this development."** ~ BLAKE

Newport noticed that their chapter's GPA had hit a settling point.

"Every semester, the chapter basically just hoped that our GPA would rise. We would have members who would do great one term, then struggle," former Virginia Pi president, and current SigEp Regional Director Bryan Gunst, Christopher Newport '11, said.

In a similar effort to raise GPA, Gunst and his chapter members worked on a plan that combined competition and academics. Rather than use fantasy sports, his chapter created a point system. Still, both New Jersey Zeta and Virginia Pi had similar ambitions; they wanted to

## Chapter minimum GPA raised to 2.8

**Chapters will have three years to achieve new standard**

By A.J. COLLINS, Alabama '13

At SigEp's 52nd Grand Chapter Conclave in Phoenix in August, the Grand Chapter passed legislation increasing the academic standards of SigEp chapters around the nation, once again placing us at the forefront of the fraternity world and proving that "This Fraternity will be different."

The resolution increases the GPA requirement for a chapter from 2.6 to 2.8 or the all-campus average, whichever is higher, in order to bring the overall national GPA for undergraduates to a 3.2.

Debate on the resolution was heated, as some chapters vehemently opposed an increase in standards to a level they argued could damage their ability to recruit new

members and lead to potential repercussions. Other chapters desired a compromise level of 2.70 to be held until the next Conclave.

Many chapters, however, voiced support for the resolution, and the Grand Chapter even amended it from "all-men's GPA," as it read in the initial resolution submitted by committee. Some noted that SigEps would be competing with women in the professional workforce, and should be subject to academic competition with them as undergraduates. In the end, the resolution was passed overwhelmingly by the voting members, consisting of chapter delegates, district governors, and National Directors.

SigEp, which had recently fallen behind Beta Theta Pi fraternity in national GPA, had perennially been in the lead among all NIC members in academic standards, and this legislation will help boost the Fraternity back into that leadership role. Additionally, the resolution complies with the national strategic plan in its goal to get all chapters above their respective ACA.

The legislation takes effect in the fall 2014 semester, giving chapters below this standard sufficient time to elevate their academic performance to comply with this new benchmark.



Check out the Dubach Dean's list



[sigep.org/academics/dubach.asp](http://sigep.org/academics/dubach.asp)



# 25

## SigEp's GPA Top 25

SigEp honors these top 25 schools that have established a high bar for academic achievement for Fall 2010. Congratulate them and emulate them!

RANK	SCHOOL	FALL '10 GPA	MANPOWER
1	<i>Alabama</i>	3.68	55
2	<i>Yale</i>	3.66	105
3	<i>Stanford</i>	3.6	35
4	<i>Columbia</i>	3.57	58
5	<i>Georgetown</i>	3.53	71
6	<i>Chicago</i>	3.53	40
7	<i>Washington in St. Louis</i>	3.53	101
8	<i>Northwestern</i>	3.52	76
9	<i>Pennsylvania</i>	3.49	27
10	<i>Dartmouth</i>	3.48	99
11	<i>NYU</i>	3.47	51
12	<i>American</i>	3.46	61
13	<i>Duke</i>	3.46	67
14	<i>Rochester</i>	3.45	53
15	<i>Washington &amp; Lee</i>	3.45	28
16	<i>Southern Methodist*</i>	3.43	114
17	<i>Emory</i>	3.41	19
18	<i>Drake*</i>	3.4	103
19	<i>Tufts</i>	3.39	60
20	<i>Bucknell</i>	3.39	88
21	<i>George Washington</i>	3.39	105
22	<i>Case Western Reserve*</i>	3.39	57
23	<i>Maine*</i>	3.38	72
24	<i>Georgia*</i>	3.38	117
25	<i>Illinois*</i>	3.38	186

\*RLCs are designated by an asterisk. SEC chapters are in italics

## Eighteen schools exceed their all-campus average by .25 or more

The 18 schools below are at least .25 above their all-campus average. These chapters can claim an academic experience far superior to what is offered to their campus at large. Every SigEp chapter can aspire to excellence in academic performance. Widen the gap between your chapter's GPA and your campus ACA. We owe it to our members to constantly improve the learning environment.

**Doing the math, FALL 2010\***

**3.08**  
All-Member GPA  
(227 chapters reporting)

**3.19** AII-RLC  
Member GPA (43 chapters reporting)

**3.10** AII-BMP  
Member GPA (183 chapters reporting)

**2.96** AII-Pledging Model  
Member GPA (42 chapters reporting)

**60** of 200  
Chapters reporting are #1 on campus (33 percent)

**14** Chapters are below 2.6

**107** of 196  
Chapters reporting all-campus average were above it

CHAPTER	FALL '10 GPA	ACA	ABOVE ACA	2010 MANPOWER
1 <i>Alabama</i>	3.68	3.01	0.67	55
2 <i>Memphis*</i>	3.15	2.6	0.55	59
3 <i>Arkansas Tech</i>	3.36	2.84	0.52	48
4 <i>Maine*</i>	3.38	2.91	0.47	72
5 <i>Murray State</i>	3.27	2.87	0.40	67
6 <i>Cincinnati*</i>	3.33	2.96	0.37	97
7 <i>California-Riverside</i>	3.06	2.69	0.37	44
8 <i>Toledo*</i>	3.23	2.87	0.36	95
9 <i>Jacksonville State</i>	2.83	2.48	0.35	21
10 <i>Cal State - Northridge</i>	3.07	2.72	0.35	45
11 <i>Oklahoma State*</i>	3.17	2.84	0.33	96
12 <i>Washburn*</i>	3.32	2.99	0.33	31
13 <i>Nebraska*</i>	3.37	3.08	0.29	124
14 <i>Oregon State*</i>	3.17	2.91	0.26	91
15 <i>American</i>	3.46	3.21	0.25	61
16 <i>Ohio State*</i>	3.37	3.12	0.25	128
17 <i>Michigan Tech</i>	3.16	2.91	0.25	38
18 <i>San Diego State*</i>	3.07	2.82	0.25	140

\* All GPAs are to the nearest hundredth of a point



# Top 5

## chapters in each SigEp Region

Starting in the Spring 2011 *Journal*, SigEp began recognizing every chapter that achieves a GPA above their all-campus average. This aligns with our strategic plan, which calls for every chapter to be above this benchmark. For the fall 2010 semester, 107 schools hit this mark.

To better organize the data, chapters in this issue are grouped based on their region of the country. The top five chapters in each region, ranked based on how much they exceed their ACA, are listed here.

The complete Dubach Dean's List of chapters above their ACA is available online at [www.sigep.org/academics/dubach.asp](http://www.sigep.org/academics/dubach.asp).

All data reflects the Fall 2010 semester

### Region 1

5 of 10 chapters  
above ACA, Region  
GPA of 3.25

REGION ONE CHAPTERS	GPA	HOW FAR ABOVE ACA	RANK ON CAMPUS	MAN- POWER
Maine*	3.38	.47	1/18	72
Columbia	3.57	.12	3/12	58
Dartmouth	3.48	.11	1/15	99
Babson	3.18	.11	3/8	42
Clarkson	2.97	.06	1/9	37

### Region 2

10 of 22 chapters  
above ACA, Region  
GPA of 3.14

REGION TWO CHAPTERS	GPA	HOW FAR ABOVE ACA	RANK ON CAMPUS	MAN- POWER
Davis and Elkins	2.96	.23	1/1	13
Stevens Tech*	3.34	.22	N/A	86
Delaware	3.11	.12	N/A	94
Moravian	3.17	.11	1/3	33
Carnegie Mellon*	3.28	.11	1/10	85

### Region 3

8 of 17 chapters  
above ACA, Region  
GPA of 3.11

REGION THREE CHAPTERS	GPA	HOW FAR ABOVE ACA	RANK ON CAMPUS	MAN- POWER
American	3.46	.25	2/12	61
Christopher Newport	3.10	.23	1/6	53
North Carolina	3.16	.15	N/A	40
Washington & Lee	3.45	.15	1/15	28
George Washington	3.39	.13	1/16	105
William & Mary	3.33	.13	2/20	N/A

### Region 4

7 of 18 chapters  
above ACA, Region  
GPA of 3.00

REGION FOUR CHAPTERS	GPA	HOW FAR ABOVE ACA	RANK ON CAMPUS	MAN- POWER
Alabama	3.68	.67	1/31	N/A
Jacksonville State	2.83	.35	1/8	21
Georgia*	3.38	.20	3/24	117
Florida Atlantic	3.15	.18	N/A	N/A**
Miami (Florida)	3.32	.07	6/12	81

### Region 5

10 of 18 chapters  
above ACA, Region  
GPA of 3.10

REGION FIVE CHAPTERS	GPA	HOW FAR ABOVE ACA	RANK ON CAMPUS	MAN- POWER
Cincinnati*	3.33	.37	1/18	97
Toledo*	3.23	.36	1/10	95
Ohio State*	3.37	.25	1/32	128
Northern Kentucky	3.03	.20	1/4	52
Michigan State	3.30	.18	N/A	78

### Region 6

9 of 19 chapters  
above ACA, Region  
GPA of 2.91

REGION SIX CHAPTERS	GPA	HOW FAR ABOVE ACA	RANK ON CAMPUS	MAN- POWER
Arkansas Tech	3.36	.52	1/6	48
Murray State	3.27	.40	1/13	67
Austin Peay State*	3.11	.24	1/6	78
Western Kentucky	2.92	.24	4/18	36
Henderson State	2.92	.23	1/4	25

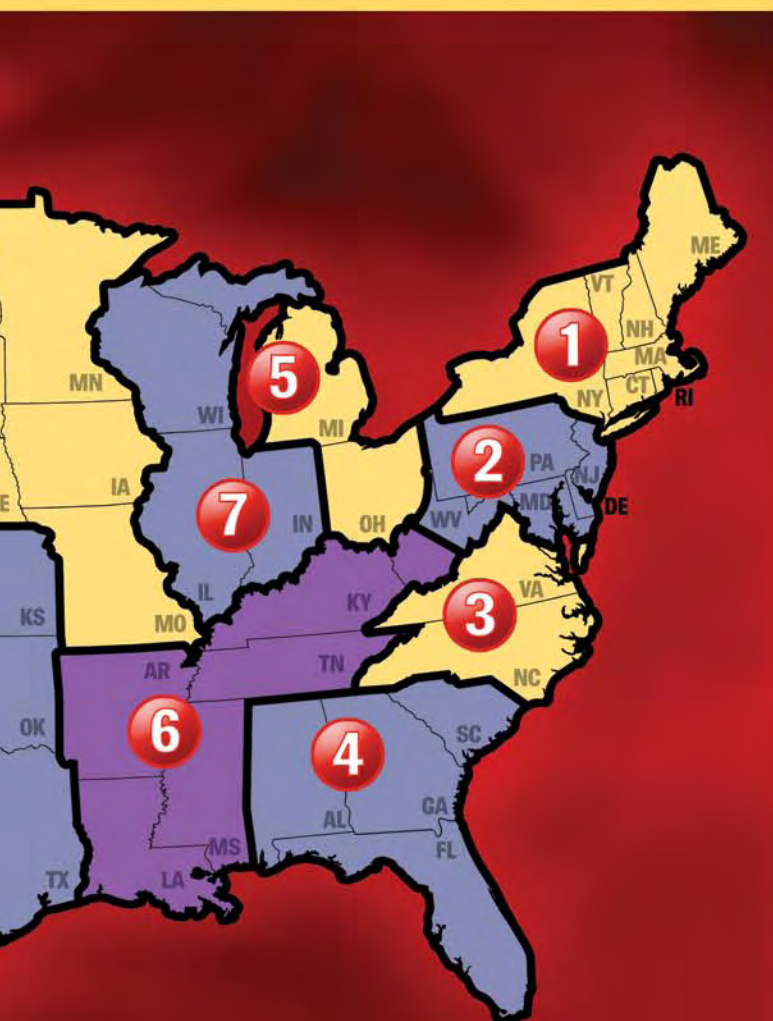


# Conference breakdown

This graph pits different athletic conferences against each other. It displays which conferences are contributing the strongest grades and highest manpower across the country. We also recognize the school in each conference that has the highest overall GPA and which is highest above their ACA.

Many schools have switched athletic conferences over the last year. These groupings are based on the 2010-2011 college basketball season.

Conference	Conference GPA	# of Chapters	Total Manpower	Highest above ACA	Highest GPA
Ivy	3.50	5	359	Columbia	Yale
University Athletic	3.43	7	421	Carnegie Mellon* and Case Western Reserve* (tied)	Chicago and Washington in St. Louis (tied)
Patriot	3.34	3	219	Bucknell	American
Big Ten	3.25	11	1,108	Ohio State*	Northwestern
Pacific 12	3.20	9	637	Oregon State*	Stanford
ACC	3.14	11	585	North Carolina	Duke
Atlantic 10	3.12	7	497	Dayton	George Washington
Big East	3.09	11	640	Cincinnati*	Georgetown
Conference USA	3.09	5	338	Memphis*	Southern Methodist*
Big 12	3.08	12	1,301	Oklahoma State*	Nebraska*
Mountain West	3.08	5	440	San Diego State*	Texas Christian*
Southern	3.05	4	210	UNC – Greensboro	Elon*
Ohio Valley	3.04	8	454	Jacksonville State	Murray State
Missouri Valley	3.03	9	641	Northern Iowa	Drake*
Colonial	2.98	8	422	Virginia Commonwealth	William & Mary
Mid-American	2.97	6	418	Toledo*	Toledo*
Big West	2.94	7	434	Cal State – Northridge	California – Irvine
SEC	2.92	11	964	Alabama	Alabama
Big Sky	2.82	4	135	N/A	Montana State*
Southland	2.80	5	275	Central Arkansas	Central Arkansas
Sun Belt	2.68	4	198	Western Kentucky	Western Kentucky



## REGION SEVEN CHAPTERS

	GPA	HOW FAR ABOVE ACA	RANK ON CAMPUS	MAN-POWER
Michigan Tech	3.16	.25	1/13	38
Illinois*	3.38	.24	3/46	186
Indiana*	3.37	.24	3/39	107
IIT	3.14	.13	1/7	50
Purdue	2.99	.11	3/40	104

## Region 7

**11 of 20 chapters above ACA, Region GPA of 3.06**

## REGION EIGHT CHAPTERS

	GPA	HOW FAR ABOVE ACA	RANK ON CAMPUS	MAN-POWER
Nebraska*	3.37	.29	5/24	124
Northern Iowa	3.22	.24	1/4	41
Drake*	3.40	.22	2/9	103
Southeast Missouri*	3.17	.21	2/7	90
South Dakota State	3.23	.21	1/6	35

## Region 8

**15 of 21 chapters above ACA, Region GPA of 3.17**

## REGION NINE CHAPTERS

	GPA	HOW FAR ABOVE ACA	RANK ON CAMPUS	MAN-POWER
Washburn*	3.32	.33	1/5	31
Oklahoma State*	3.17	.33	7/18	96
Southern Methodist*	3.43	.26	1/10	114
Kansas State	3.01	.11	8/25	101
Texas Christian*	3.17	.10	2/10	140

## Region 9

**9 of 16 chapters above ACA, Region GPA of 3.03**

## REGION TEN CHAPTERS

	GPA	HOW FAR ABOVE ACA	RANK ON CAMPUS	MAN-POWER
Oregon State*	3.17	.26	1/20	91
Utah State	3.32	.19	1/4	46
Colorado School of Mines	3.08	.15	1/7	29
Colorado State	3.02	.15	4/19	71
Washington State*	3.10	.10	3/25	87

## Region 10\*\*

**6 of 10 chapters above ACA, Region GPA of 3.04**

## REGION ELEVEN CHAPTERS

	GPA	HOW FAR ABOVE ACA	RANK ON CAMPUS	MAN-POWER
California-Riverside	3.06	.37	1/8	44
Cal State-Northridge	3.07	.35	1/11	45
San Diego State*	3.07	.25	1/10	140
Cal State-San Bernardino	3.0	.22	1/4	67
San Diego	3.24	.16	3/5	82

## Region 11

**12 of 19 chapters above ACA, Region GPA of 3.04**

\*Indicates Residential Learning Community

Italics indicates Sigma Epsilon Chapter

\*\*Region 10 also includes the state of Alaska





## SigEp turns soccer player back into a fraternity man

By BRIAN SHAWN, North Dakota '02

### Check out varsity athletes online

A list of SigEp varsity athletes is now online for your review. This listing is shared through the Sound Bite, our undergraduate e-newsletter. Check out the varsity athletes at chapters across the nation at [www.sigep.org/varsityathletes](http://www.sigep.org/varsityathletes).

James Gross, Westminster '12, wasn't a big fan of the Greek community his freshman year of college. He decided to pledge with a different national fraternity when he arrived on campus and had a terrible experience. He was convinced Greek life wasn't for him until he met a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon. "I came to a recruiting event and that was the turning point for me," Gross said. "It wasn't the event itself that changed me, it was the people I met."

Gross was clearly SigEp material. He is a stand-out midfielder for the Titan soccer team and has excelled in

the classroom. He holds a 3.86 GPA in accounting and is interning at a CPA firm. He was one of 90 athletes named to the Dean's List this past spring.

On the field, Gross started all 18 games his junior season, tallying three goals and one assist. Unfortunately, the Titans finished with their lowest win total in 22 years. Gross hopes for better results in 2011 and values what the sport has done for him. "Soccer itself, and the training that is involved, has always kept me in top physical shape," Gross said. "Each of these areas requires a different



James Gross, Westminster '12, (right) plays in a match against Pennsylvania State.

type of training, thus making the training involved complex."

Time management has been a critical skill for Gross to master. He's involved in numerous other organizations including activities with his local

church. "It was overwhelming at first," he added. "By staying driven and maintaining a positive attitude, I was able to deal with all the work and pressures that I faced each day."

Although Gross is still relatively new to his SigEp experience, he is already seeing the value of accepting his bid to join. "Without a doubt, the single thing I enjoy most about SigEp is the guys

that I have met and the friendships I have made," he said.

After finishing his Sigma Challenge in the spring, Gross also received a t-shirt from an older member stating, 'Sigma Phi Epsilon, From the outside you can't understand it, From the inside you can't explain it.'

"For me, those three lines sum up the SigEp experience perfectly," Gross added.

**"Every kid around the world who plays soccer wants to be Pele. I have a great responsibility to show them not just how to be like a soccer player, but how to be like a man."** ~ PELE

# George Washington junior has no trouble keeping his head above water

By BRIAN SHAWN, North Dakota '02

John Paul Bezerra, George Washington '14, doesn't have much free time on his hands, but he sure doesn't seem to mind. He's a double major in political science and history with a minor in Portuguese.

On top of his rigorous academic schedule, Bezerra is a diver/attacker on the Colonial water polo team. He played other sports growing up, but after he broke his left leg in a car accident, he focused on water polo to allow for an easier rehabilitation.

He sure looks like he made the right decision. Bezerra was fourth on a team with 17 goals and 24 assists, tied for third on a team with 27 steals, and second on a team with nine field blocks in 29 games in 2010. An average player swims an average of one mile per game while constantly treading water on both offense and defense.

"I love the physical intensity of water polo," Bezerra said. "No other contact sport has as many intentional fouls and no other sport is played in such an unnatural environment as 12 feet of water."

Bezerra practices 30 hours per week

during the season, and has only four weekends off from August to November. Despite his hectic schedule, he still maintains a 3.36 GPA.

"Finding time for school during the season is not impossible but requires a lot of reading and studying on long bus rides and staying up late at night," Bezerra said. "I spend about two hours a day in study hall before or after practice."

Despite all his success in the pool and the classroom, Bezerra says it was Sigma Phi Epsilon that kept everything on track. Bezerra was initially turned off by fraternities, but after visiting his best friend (who is a SigEp) at Loyola Marymount, he reconsidered his position. Bezerra pursued SigEp in his sophomore year and joined the D.C. Alpha Chapter. He has not regretted it.



John Paul Bezerra, George Washington '14, gets control of the ball during a recent match. The political science and history major maintains a 3.36 GPA.

"SigEp gave me a meaning in college and sense of family at a time when I wasn't sure if I wanted to continue playing water polo or even stay at George Washington," Bezerra added. "I became part of something bigger than myself, and bigger than my school."

After graduation, Bezerra plans to attend law school and study constitutional law or international business law.

## SigEp legacy following in father's footsteps

By BRIAN SHAWN, North Dakota '02

John Atkinson, Ohio Northern '13, was literally born to be a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon. He was introduced to the Fraternity when he was just a young child. His father, Tim Atkinson, Miami (Ohio) '78, is also a SigEp, and he told John numerous stories growing up. "Before I even got to campus, I knew that SigEp would be the only Fraternity I would consider

joining," Atkinson said.

So far, Atkinson is making the most of his experience. He is double majoring in finance and accounting and holds a 3.95 GPA. He keeps busy out of the classroom as well. He is a quarterback on the Polar Bears football team, earning his first letter in 2010. Atkinson isn't the biggest player on the field at only

5'10", 160 pounds, but he doesn't let that keep him from going out and competing. "I love football because it embodies a quote I can relate to," Atkinson explained. "It ain't the size of the dog in the fight; it's the size of the fight in the dog."

Atkinson admits aiming to be a star in the classroom and on the field isn't easy, but finds his college experience very rewarding. "I am

blessed to be in the position that I'm in," Atkinson said. "I remind myself that being able to do everything that I do is a privilege that many people are not fortunate enough to experience."

Atkinson is also making the most of his time in the Fraternity. He has served as Guide on the Ritual team and



John Atkinson, Ohio Northern '13, is flanked by his parents, Tim, '78, and Elaine, at an Ohio Northern football game.

plans to take on more responsibility down the road. "The thing I enjoy most about SigEp is simply being around my brothers," Atkinson

said. "I firmly believe that much of SigEp's impact won't hit me until a few years down the road."





# SigEp soars

## 52nd Grand Chapter Conclave heats up the desert

By MITCH GOLDICH, Lehigh '09

SigEp brothers streamed into the Phoenix airport or sped along a blazing hot Interstate 10 toward the JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort to discover for themselves how this Fraternity will be different. And everywhere they turned, they saw it.

Billowing banners hung from ceilings and sported the soaring Phoenix bird, our symbol for the 52nd Grand Chapter Conclave. Over 1,400 guests packed the resort from the lobby to the pools to the giant Saguaro cacti. They seamlessly formed groups of new friends and familiar faces.

Those who attended our 52nd Grand Chapter Conclave enjoyed a whirlwind experience that hit on every emotion.



## We had...

**BREATHTAKING MOMENTS**, like the Balanced Man Celebration, when Muhammad Ali kicked off the opening ceremony and Grand President Garry Kief appeared out of a cover of fog and lasers to deliver his State of the Fraternity address.

**TOUCHING MOMENTS** like the necrology, when brothers approached microphones to honor SigEps who had passed away in the last two years. The conferring of the Order of the Golden Heart also stirred emotion, as some of SigEp's lifelong volunteers were surprised to receive the gold medallion of SigEp's highest honor.

**INSPIRING MOMENTS**, such as when the undergraduate delegation voted to raise the minimum chapter-wide GPA from a 2.6 to a 2.8, challenging our future brothers to live up to a higher standard. Top chapters were also recognized with Buchanan Cups, charters and RLC accreditations.

**HILARIOUS MOMENTS**, like long-time volunteer Tom Barton crawling across the finish line in the 5K, and actor John Goodman's wisecracks as he accepted the Citation award.

**UNIFYING MOMENTS**, when old friends and new friends came together for a laugh, a drink, or a dip in the lazy river. Most unifying of all was the performance of SigEp's Ritual, a chance for brothers to see what truly binds us all together.

The images and stories captured on the following pages give you a glimpse of the unique and exhilarating experience that is Conclave. Conclave was filled with reasons why every SigEp should book their trip to Dallas in 2013.

Left: Phoenix's grand Orpheum Theater provided a breathtaking backdrop for the Balanced Man Celebration.

This page, clockwise from top: John Goodman, Missouri State '74, congratulates Garry Kief, Southern California '70, on receiving the Order of the Golden Heart. Kief was completely surprised by the honor. NASA astronaut and Citation Recipient Andrew Feustel, Purdue '89, transfixed the audience with his tales of space flight. Brothers lollygag on the lazy river at the resort. Volunteer Tom Barton, Loras '89, crawls across the finish line at the 5K race. Order of the Golden Heart Recipient Chuck Eberly, Bowling Green State '63, meets a few undergraduates. Muhammad Ali's wife, Lonnie, helps settle him on stage before giving opening remarks.







## Conclave by the numbers

**1,465**

2011 Registrants

**4,254**

Meals served

**37**

Resolutions considered

**26**

Resolutions passed

**5,029,345**

Total miles traveled

**950**

Hotel rooms

**42**

Rafts on lazy river

**37**

Jack rabbits on site

**25**

OGH recipients in attendance

**47**

Buc Cups awarded

**2,661**

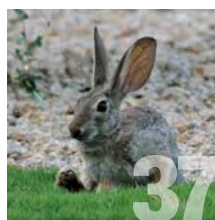
Conclave app downloads

**2**

Rank of the 52nd Conclave attendance. #1 is the centennial Conclave

**251**

Chapters represented



Two Winstons. Two generations. And they managed to meet and greet at Conclave. What are the odds?







# Muhammad Ali surprises everyone at the Balanced Man Celebration

By MITCH GOLDICH, Lehigh '09

The elegant Orpheum Theater in downtown Phoenix played host to the Balanced Man Celebration, a highly-anticipated night to recognize SigEp's top performing chapters.

Once guests took their seats, they watched a rousing video, with black and white vintage clips from Uncle Billy's personal collection to a dazzling display of today's multi-talented undergraduates.

After the video, the most raucous applause was for the night's surprise guest. Onlookers almost fell out of their chairs in disbelief, stunned by the appearance of former heavyweight champion of the world, Muhammad Ali. Ali, and his wife Lonnie, held for a long applause, as guests stood and screamed, clapping and pulling out their cell phone cameras.

Ali was introduced via a voiceover by Larry King. King explained that Ali was a fitting guest at SigEp's Grand Chapter Conclave. The boxer, known as the Greatest Of All Time, became one of the most celebrated athletes

of the last century, while standing up for what he believed in and daring to be different. Lonnie did the speaking, while Muhammad sat next to her. She welcomed the contingent to Phoenix, "From the greatest, to the greatest."

The surprise visit from Ali was not the only fanfare of the Balanced Man Celebration. Bagpipe players walked through the aisles playing an old SigEp favorite, "Rum, Rum," and clouds of fog and dramatic music accompanied every move on stage.

Midway through the program, 47 glimmering Buchanan Cups rose out of the smoke, on a platform from under the stage. One by one, delegates of the Buchanan Cup winning chapters came on stage to accept congratulations and their Cup.

Nine chapters received golden Buc Cups for earning at least five consecutive Cups, representing an entire decade of excellence. View the complete list of winners on the back cover.

Top left: Brothers eagerly await the start of the Balanced Man Celebration. Top right: Two Balanced Man Celebration emcees jump at the chance to be photographed with the Greatest himself. Below: A tiered table of Buchanan Cups arose from the fog in one of the more dramatic moments of the Balanced Man Celebration. See a full list of Buc Cup chapters on the back cover.

Amid a blanket of lasers and fog, Grand President Garry Kief, Southern California '70, made his entrance down a staircase onto the stage. Two years after his inaugural address on topics like transparency, openness and communication, Kief's address focused on the Fraternity's progress in many of those areas.

He commended SigEp undergraduates and volunteers for growing, changing and continuing to make progress that would do the founders proud. He challenged everyone in the room to continue progressing, and urged them not to settle for being in the middle.

After Kief's speech, the lights came on and streamers exploded over the crowd. Some undergraduates rushed the stage for photos, while others flooded the streets of Phoenix. Everyone was inspired by a truly unforgettable evening to continue striving to make Sigma Phi Epsilon even greater.





## A teacher of leaders: Barry Posner practices and preaches what matters about leadership

By BENJAMIN Y. LOWE, Columbia '01

Leadership guru Barry Z. Posner, California-Santa Barbara '70, became interested in his field after taking an assignment with Headquarters shortly after graduating from college.

SigEp at the time tasked Posner, now a professor of leadership, and until 2009, dean of the Leavey School of Business at Santa Clara University, with the assignment of visiting troubled chapters and trying to figure out a way to quickly engineer a turnaround.

"The pivotal experience was being on staff," said Posner. "My role was to come into chapters, size things up, decide what needed to be done, who could do it and how to make that happen in a short period of time. I never made a second visit to a chapter."

It was during that time that Posner, now a worldwide leadership authority, embarked on what would become a multi-decade career laying the foundations of modern leadership theory and research. He has shared his findings in books and presentations around the world, and many of his findings are utilized by SigEp to this day, shaping everything from the Ruck Leadership Institute and Carlson Leadership Academies and even the Balanced Man Program itself.

"The programming we have used to train chapter officers, cultivate student leaders and prepare regional directors for their time on the road has its roots in the teachings and research launched by Brother Posner and his colleague Jim Kouzes. His approaches have become a

**"Leaders face an ongoing challenge—how do you mobilize others to want to struggle for a common aspiration?" ~ POSNER**

second language of leadership for us," said Headquarters Member Development Manager Shane McKee, Washington State Renaissance.

Posner graduated from California-Santa Barbara with a degree in political science. From there, he went on to earn a master's in public administration from The Ohio State University and then a doctorate in organizational behavior and administrative theory from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst in 1976.

Posner, 62, served on SigEp's National Board of Directors from 1972 to 1980, while also being a resident scholar. He would later serve as a faculty adviser at Santa Clara. And this summer he was one of several keynote speakers at Conclave in Phoenix.

### Mission and purpose

"The reason I joined [SigEp] was for friendship," he said. "The reason I stayed was for mission and purpose. The reason I continue to be active is my appreciation and commitment to the ideals of brotherhood and Sigma Phi Epsilon."

Posner joined the Fraternity his sophomore year in college because a friend on student council joined that year as well. While quite active in campus politics, he only had one leadership position in the chapter, having been elected president as a compromise between two competing values-orientations in his chapter.

"It was after midnight and they said, 'We think you could unite the chapter, and we can then get this over with and go to bed,'" Posner said. "So I was honored and humbled. With their support and faith, I didn't have a good excuse to say no."

Posner's seminal co-authored book, *The Leadership Challenge*, has sold more than 1.8 million copies over four editions, and is available in over 20 languages. It was first published in 1987.



Barry Posner pauses to chat with an audience member before his insightful session on leadership at this year's Conclave. His main message? People want leaders who are honest, inspiring, forward-looking and competent.

The most surprising finding in his research, and discussed in his co-authored book *Credibility* (released in August) is that the top four characteristics that people look for in their leaders have not changed over the past 30 years. Those characteristics are honest, forward-thinking, inspiring and competent.

### Some things haven't changed

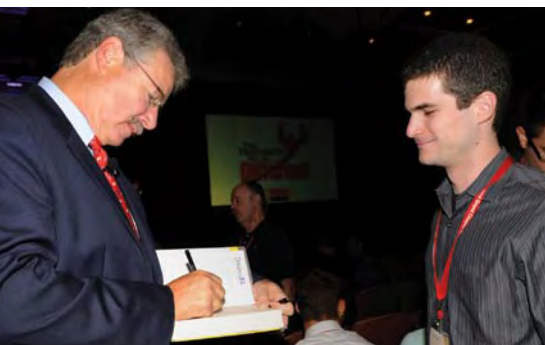
"Think of how much the world has changed," Posner said. "But when it comes to human relationships nothing has changed. Things that were the most important continue to be the most important. Leaders face an ongoing challenge—how do you mobilize others to want to struggle for a common aspiration?"

Quite often, Posner said, the answer lies in intrinsic factors. Good leaders can identify and then tap into those when it is necessary to motivate and encourage members of a company or organization...or even a chapter.

"If you look at the research about why people stay in an organization, it's because people find what they're doing is meaningful and purposeful," Posner said. "They stay because of the relationship. What's true in corporations is true in fraternities."

Beyond his professional commitments, Posner has advised a diverse set of organizations as a board member. Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the San Jose Repertory Theatre, the American Institute of Architects, and the Center for Excellence in Non-Profits are among the many organizations that have benefitted from his direct advice.

"You can't just write about this stuff, you have to be willing to do it," he said.



Barry Posner autographed one of the 1.8 million copies of his highly respected books on leadership for a 2011 Conclave attendee.

# Marine Corps colonel explains and embodies *arete*

By DAVID J. WENZEL, Cincinnati '06

The Creed of Sigma Phi Epsilon calls for brothers to be men of diversified talents and abilities, while living just and upright lives and giving of their time and talents to positively impact those around them. The concept of *arete*, actively living an outstanding life with a sound mind, in a sound body directed by a sound spirit, is only fully done by a few men. The lofty ideal of being a balanced man is not an idle process, but one that must be energetically and relentlessly pursued.

**Robert Lanham, Indiana '77**, is one such brother who is much more than a SigEp, Marine, father and husband. He is a living example of what every alumnus should be: a balanced man of Virtue, Diligence, and Brotherly Love.

## Global leadership perspective

Brother Lanham's experiences in the Marine Corps have taken him around the world, giving him a unique perspective on all aspects of leadership. At the 2011 Conclave, he spoke with undergraduates, alumni and volunteers about the 14 USMC leadership traits, emphasizing three traits: knowledge, integrity and enthusiasm. He stressed that these three traits, above any other have proven to be the most useful and relevant aspects of great leadership. While these traits are based on the "Marine Corps way," they are applicable to everyone in all aspects of leadership, especially SigEps.

After graduating with a degree in English literature, Lanham traveled for the following year as a regional director for SigEp. Upon leaving the Fraternity staff, he began a career as a stockbroker in Indianapolis while obtaining an MBA in corporate finance from Indiana University's Kelley Graduate School of Business. A few years later, he chose to follow his heart, inspired by a family history in aviation and his patriotism, and he joined the Marine Corps in 1982 to become a Naval aviator.

By 1985 he had earned his wings and piloted the A-6 Intruder and the F/A-18

Hornet fighter. Over the past 29 years in the Marine Corps, he has held a variety of positions, including a year-long deployment in western Iraq where he directed civil-military operations and policy, command of the Marine Corps Air Station in Beaufort, S.C., and speechwriter and strategic planner for two Marine Corps Commandants. Lanham is now a Colonel and serves as the Director of the Strategic Initiatives Group for the U.S. Marine Corps Headquarters, the internal "think tank" for the Commandant.

## "A model of consistency and integrity"

**Shawn McKenna, Maine '77**, member of the National Board of Directors, served as a regional director with Lanham. He said Lanham is, "a model of consistency and integrity... day in and day out."

Lanham and McKenna have known each other for over 30 years, and their families have remained close. McKenna thinks Lanham is, "ethical, honest and fair and really understands his mission and vision."

The "Beyond Phi Beta Kappa" speech given by then-Grand President **William Tragos, Washington in St. Louis '56**, at the 2001 Conclave inspired Lanham to become involved with the Fraternity again. He felt that we were raising the bar, being different, and constantly striving to be the best. Since then he has served on the National Leadership Committee, facilitated Ruck Leadership Institute sessions and attended his seventh Conclave, the latest one in Phoenix. Lanham stated "We're raising

the bar...It's contagious."

Lanham believes everything our Fraternity is achieving is because of the many leaders who got involved and began paying attention. This attention to detail is critical to success. When Lanham speaks with undergraduates, he discusses how leadership needs to be connected with character. He embodies the Greek concept of *arete*, constantly striving for excellence.



Colonel Robert Lanham, Indiana '77, shared his perspective on leadership in the military. At left, he and former Grand President John Hartman, Missouri-Columbia '61 (second from left), have some time with attendees after the presentation.



# Brother teaches tolerance by example

By TYLER MANOUKIAN, Massachusetts '13

"I'm sorry that it bothers you, but it bothers me more."

That message, printed on a small, green card and handed out by **Marc Elliot, Washington in St. Louis '08**, during his keynote speech on tolerance at the 52nd Grand Chapter Conclave in Phoenix, was his way of saying, "I have Tourette's, and I'm just letting you know."

Elliot was diagnosed at age 9 with Tourette's syndrome, a condition that affects the brain and nervous system by causing tics—repeated, uncontrollable movements or involuntary vocal sounds.

Elliot has been learning to tame the condition since he was a kid on the streets of St. Louis, Mo. But controlling the tingling feelings hasn't been easy, "[It's] like having 10, 15 or 20 itches all in one spot," he said.

However, he has learned to cope with the itches over the past few years. "When he was in Orlando (for the 51st Conclave), he was ticking really hard, and even when he was on our campus in the spring he was still chomping a lot," said **Jason Goetsch, Wisconsin-Platteville '10**. "Now he's got a lot of control; it's just been a great time hearing him talk."

But Elliot's journey hasn't been as smooth as it seems. He spent the first six months of his life in the hospital, and endured seven operations by the time he was 4 years old caused by an intestinal disease. The challenges he has faced in life have allowed him to tour the country, educating young adults on the importance of tolerance.

He said one of his biggest challenges was knowing from daily experience how people treat and react to someone who behaves differently from everyone else. "From this lesson," he said, "one of the most important things I have learned is the importance of tolerance."

He defines the word tolerance with a phrase that has become the hallmark of his motivational presentations, "Live and Let Live." It means to let others live their lives as they see fit, rather than jumping to judgment.

He said when people are intolerant, they make assumptions and then turn those assumptions into an action. Elliot explained that his brain hijacks the messages he knows he would never say and forces him to say these terrible words out loud, despite his own deep offense to them.

He recalled a situation where he was at a bus station in Indianapolis. While waiting, he kept ticking black obscenities. He tried to explain this to the black woman standing in front of him, but she wouldn't listen.

Then right before he boarded the bus, he told the black woman driving about his Tourette's. The driver took the intercom and said, "There's a young man on the bus, and his name is Marc. He has Tourette's and it would be great if we could all be understanding of that."

But the driver, after hearing what he was saying earlier, leveled with him at this point, "Either you put a cotton ball in your mouth or you get the hell off my bus," she said.

Through Elliot's trials and tribulations he has learned to live and let live, and he urges us to do the same. "Live and let live is not about right and wrong, it's about compassion," he said. "These people let



Marc Elliot brought the audience to their feet with his compelling message about accepting people as they are.

their lack of understanding of someone else's life dictate their own actions."

The takeaway message Elliot had to offer: "Recognize that you make assumptions about people who are different than you," he said. "Don't turn it into an action that might negatively impact that person's life." He says his message is so powerful because his stories are examples of people making assumptions and the hurdles associated with tolerance.

After three years, over 220 appearances and 60,000 people in 37 states, the 2011 College Speaker and Diversity Artist of the Year is not slowing down.

For his next move, Elliot is launching the Let Live Campaign, a program designed to change the culture of high schools. "If we can get everyone at high schools to recognize that everyone has a story, and everyone has a struggle—you might be more inclined to let people live their life," he said.

He said he is excited for the opportunity because he feels so inspired when he is given a chance to make a change in someone else's life. "The neatest part," he said, "is that I'm not a rock star, I'm not a comedian, I'm not a famous actor. I'm a guy talking about Tourette's syndrome."





## Brotherhood Luncheon highlights



The Brotherhood Luncheon was very emotional, starting with the necrology. Brothers approached microphones and read the names of brothers who have passed away over the last two years.

The brothers of Drake's Iowa Delta Chapter received this Conclave's Honor of Philias, given every two years for incredible acts of kindness and brotherly love. The Greek word *Philias* translates to SigEp's third cardinal principle, Brotherly Love, and the chapter has earned this recognition for its support of **Shiv Morjaria, Drake '14** (purple shirt, right), throughout his battle with cancer. Read more on page 28.

After five new Residential Learning Communities were given their accreditation plaques, **RLC Task Force Member Chris Dillion, Illinois '03**, (left) announced a new initiative, in which the Illinois Alpha Chapter will offer funding and mentorship to support chapters striving to become RLCs. Their first partnership is with our newly recolonized chapter at Alabama. At right, Grand Secretary Shawn McKenna awards Georgia Delta at Georgia their RLC plaque.







## Citation award honors five

Five men received the Sigma Phi Epsilon Citation, which has been bestowed on only one-tenth of one percent of more than 290,000 brothers. These are men who have reached the pinnacle of their career, bringing esteem and honor to their Fraternity and their field of endeavor.

### **Frederick C. "Bobo" Brayton, Washington State '49**

**Head Coach, Washington State University Baseball**  
Brother Brayton compiled a 1,162-523-8 record in 33 seasons as Washington State's head baseball coach from 1962-1994, ranking him 11th in career coaching victories in NCAA Division I. He won 20 conference championships and made two appearances in the College World Series. He coached several future major league players, including John Olerud, Aaron Sele and Scott Hatteberg. The baseball stadium at Washington State now bears his name.

### **Andrew J. Feustel, Ph.D., Purdue '89**

**NASA Astronaut**

After working as a geophysicist, Brother Feustel joined NASA in 2000. Following training, he was assigned technical duties in the Astronaut Office Space Shuttle and Space Station Branches. He served on the crew of the Atlantis Space Shuttle to repair the Hubble Space Telescope. Earlier this year, he played a key role on the last mission of the Space Shuttle Endeavour, delivering an Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer and other additions to the International Space Station. He made three spacewalks totaling 20 hours of installation and repairs.

### **Father William J. Fulco, S.J., Loyola Marymount Renaissance**

**National Endowment of the Humanities Professor in Ancient Mediterranean Studies**

Father Fulco is a leading expert in Semitic languages, fluent in five, with a broad knowledge of ancient religion, Near Eastern civilizations and archeology. Widely published and a popular lecturer, he constantly conducts on-site research and is curator of the Pontifical Biblical Institute, Jerusalem, an archeology museum and the world's largest collection of Chalcolithic material. He has been a mentor and counselor for the Loyola Marymount Chapter since its founding in 1997.

### **John S. Goodman, Missouri State '74**

**Actor**

As a popular movie, television and stage actor, Brother Goodman has hundreds of titles to his credit. He has won an Emmy Award, Golden Globe Award, People's Choice Award, and American Comedy Awards. On TV, he is best known for his role as Dan Conner on *Roseanne* and for hosting *Saturday Night Live* 14 times. His movie credits include: *Everybody's All-American*, *The Babe*, *Blues Brothers 2000*, *The Big Lebowski*, *O Brother Where Art Thou?*, and *Monsters Inc.*

### **James R. Huffines, Texas-Austin '73**

**President & COO, PlainsCapital Corporation; Former Regent, University of Texas**

Brother Huffines is the President and COO of PlainsCapital Corporation. Founded in 1987, PlainsCapital is an independent Texas bank holding company and diversified financial services company comprised of three separate businesses: PlainsCapital Bank, FirstSouthwest and PrimeLending. PlainsCapital Bank, with \$5.3 billion in assets, is the financial and strategic foundation of this family of companies. He was appointed to two consecutive terms for the University of Texas System Board of Regents and served his second term until 2010.

## 2011-2013 National Board of Directors



**Grand President**  
Bert J. Harris III  
Florida '74\*\*



**Grand Treasurer**  
Christopher L. Bittman  
Colorado '85\*



**Grand Secretary**  
Shawn McKenna  
Maine '77\*\*



**National Director**  
Richard W. Bennet III  
Central Missouri '74\*



**National Director**  
Phillip A. Cox  
Indiana '84

\*Re-elected this year

\*\*Newly elected this year



# Four are added to the Order of the Golden Heart

Four alumni received the Order of the Golden Heart this year, the highest honor SigEp can bestow on a brother. This brings the total number of recipients to 151 since it was first awarded at the 1959 Conclave. Each brother who receives this honor has provided exceptional service to the Fraternity over the course of a lifetime.

The conferring of the Golden Heart medallions is always one of the most dramatic moments of Conclave. Unlike the Citation recipients, these men do not know ahead of time that they will be recognized. Each is called to the stage to share a memory or some words of wisdom about their experience in SigEp, searching for the right words often before the shock of hearing their name called has worn off.

This year's recipients are **John George, Auburn '76, Roger VanHoozer, Washburn '72, Jack Witemeyer, Rutgers '55, and Garry Kief, Southern California '70.**

**Brother George** has mentored and advised chapters all over the South, even opening his home as a location for chapter retreats. He has filled the roles of chapter counselor and district governor, and twice been a mentor on the Tragos Quest to Greece.

**Brother Kief** spent the last two years serving as Grand Chapter President, and the Fraternity has thrived under his leadership. After rediscovering SigEp at the 1991 Conclave, he committed himself to

both the Fraternity and the Educational Foundation. He started as a Foundation Trustee, and in 1999 was elected to the National Board of Directors. He served the Board for 12 years, while holding a dual role as president of the Educational Foundation for eight years.

**Brother VanHoozer** was elected to the National Board of Directors in 1993, and served the Board for 12 years. Before that, he worked on the Headquarters staff as a regional director and Conclave director, then became a resident scholar at Southern California. He has also been a chapter counselor and district governor, and facilitated at Carlson Leadership Academies for 32 consecutive years.

**Brother Witemeyer** has volunteered for our chapter at Rutgers for 55 years, over 20 of them as chapter counselor. He created a newsletter that still exists today, and even served as president of the university's Alumni Interfraternity Council. Those who know him say that nobody has meant more to New Jersey Beta.



Roger VanHoozer (center) received his OGH certificate from National Directors Garry Kief (left) and Chris Bittman.



George



Kief



VanHoozer



Witemeyer



**National Director**  
Thomas B. Jelke  
*Florida International '90*



**National Director**  
Billy D. Maddalon  
*North Carolina State '90\*\**



**National Director**  
Daniel W. McVeigh  
*Texas Wesleyan, '90\*\**



**Student National Director**  
William J. Broadlick  
*Washington State '13\*\**



**Student National Director**  
Austin J. Collins  
*Alabama '13\*\**



**Student National Director**  
Justin D. Kingsolver  
*Indiana '12\*\**



# Chapter News

## Louisiana State Chapter celebrates 50 years

By **ERIC GUERIN**, Louisiana State '06

SigEp's Louisiana Beta Chapter at Louisiana State has reached its 50th year on campus. In recent years, the chapter has become the largest fraternity at Louisiana State, receiving many recognitions and awards along the way.

In May 2011, the chapter hosted a number of events to celebrate its milestone birthday, including a baseball tailgate, golf tournament to fund student scholarships, a gala dinner and dance and a crawfish boil hosted by young alumni mentors of chapter executive officers. Alumni traveled from 10 states, including Hawaii, to help commemorate the occasion.

The festivities were kicked off with an official proclamation by the Louisiana House of Representatives. Saturday's golf tournament raised \$9,040 for the chapter's scholarship endowment fund. An open house and tour later in the day was hosted by the chapter's parents' club. The black-tie optional dinner was enjoyed by over 170 brothers and guests who were treated to a keynote from past Grand President Gary Griffith, Texas-Austin '70.

Through the use of the Balanced Man Scholarship, the chapter prides itself on the quality of men it has consistently recruited and retained with the largest Interfraternity Council formal recruitment class.



Louisiana State University Dean of Men Arden O. French stands by as Herman Hattaway, Louisiana State '61, (right) receives the charter from Grand President Maynard Turner, Washington '22.

PHOTO BY KODI WILSON



Louisiana State SigEp brothers enjoyed the 50th anniversary gala, dinner, and dance at the LSU Lod Cook Alumni Center this past May.

Focused programming for member development has helped the chapter address the obstacles on a traditional southern campus by providing an experience based on the values of our Fraternity. Presentations from and coordination with Diane Mohler of the LSU Center for Academic Success add value to the academic sections of the development program. Presentations from Louisiana State staff and chapter alumni on resume writing and interviewing skills, student health, leadership and responsible choices and a forum on alcohol and hazing policies are just some of the activities that enhance life as a SigEp at Louisiana State.

For 13 of the past 14 semesters, the chapter has achieved the highest cumulative GPA on campus and has set the curve for the all-men's Greek GPA. By installing an athletics chair, intramural teams have gone from merely participating to competing with even their toughest rivals on campus.

Louisiana Beta has fostered leaders in the Greek community with members of the IFC executive committee, the Greek Board of Directors and Student Government including the current student government president, **Cody Wells, '12**.

Service to the Baton Rouge community has taken the form of building homes for Habitat for Humanity and earning the

Louisiana Distinguished Service Award from the Lt. Governor for philanthropic work with Boys' Hope, Girls' Hope of Baton Rouge. Over the last four years, the chapter has raised over \$65,000 for the organization and is committed to maintaining this partnership. They proudly accepted their second Buchanan Cup at the Phoenix Conclave.

But perhaps the biggest compliment the chapter has received is the attention from other fraternities. As one chapter president recently stated, "I would like to thank SigEp for showing us that, if we are going to survive on this campus, we have to treat our members with respect."

The chapter has passed a crucial test in its character over such popularity. Brothers have chosen to build upon the successes of the Fraternity from the past 50 years, to honor those men who made it what it is today, and to continue to lead the way for fraternities at Louisiana State.

**Alumni traveled from 10 states, including Hawaii, to help commemorate the occasion.**

# Oklahoma initiates 2,000th member to continue a legacy

By **MICHAEL SELBY**, Eastern Michigan '02

Last spring, **Adam Lee, Oklahoma '14**, became the 2,000th man initiated by the Oklahoma Beta Chapter. This incredible feat was no happenstance. It converges at the precise intersection of a chapter that prioritizes outstanding recruitment and a member with a rich legacy in the Balanced Man tradition.

A day in the Oklahoma Beta Chapter is larger than life. At over 200 active members, Oklahoma Beta is one of the largest SigEp chapters in the nation. Imagine attending a weekly chapter meeting that rivals the size of a Carlson Leadership Academy! For many of us, this proposition is difficult to grasp. Yet, for the men of the Oklahoma Beta Chapter, including Adam Lee, this campus dominance is a reality.

Even the logistics to operate a chapter on this scale are impressive. The chapter convenes each week and, on some occasions, it's a standing-room-only event. The chapter typically fields multiple teams for each intramural event, as many as six for the most popular sports.

Though a day in the life at the Oklahoma Beta Chapter may seem worlds apart from other chapters, familiar themes in their SigEp experience unite them with their brothers across the country. "Being surrounded by such an exceptional group of men provides an environment where we all can benefit from each other's talent, and learn from one another's missteps," said Lee.

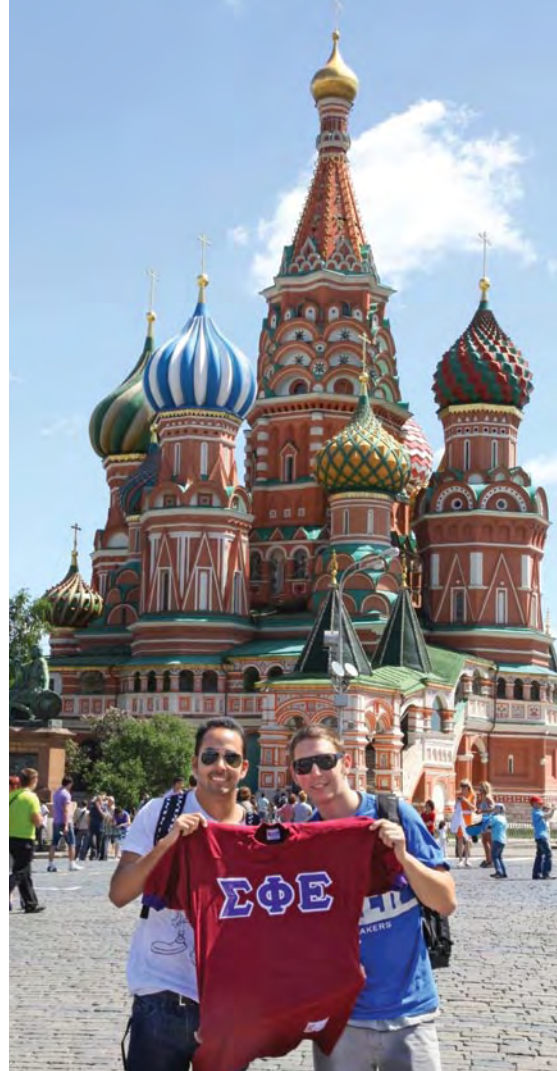
The strong SigEp tradition at Oklahoma came as no surprise to Lee as he began his collegiate career in

Norman, Okla. His father, **Dan, '79**, and his brother, **Matt, '10**, are also Oklahoma SigEps. The principles espoused by our Fraternity have long found a warm reception in the Lee household. Their shared experience in SigEp has allowed the Lee family to connect with each other, Oklahoma's 2,000th man said, "It has given me a window into the experiences that have made them who they are, and it has allowed me to develop similar qualities that I have long admired as a son and younger brother."

Lee noted that, "We've been through plenty together, but our experiences in SigEp give us a point of reference—knowing that each of us was a part of the same brotherhood. It is both gratifying and moving that there is a shared experience from the same stage in each of our lives that links us not only to each other, but to a much larger fraternal experience."



Adam Lee, '14, left, with brother Matthew, '10, and father Dan, '79, display their catch after a Destin, Fla., fishing trip in August 2011.



## SigEps among the spires

Brothers Robert Allison, Miami (Florida) '13, and David Chonillo, Miami (Florida) '13, represent SigEp at Red Square in Moscow, Russia. The two spent part of the summer in a study abroad trip to Russia to learn more about architecture.

**"In order for man to succeed in life, God provided him with two means, education and physical activity. Not separately, one for the soul and the other for the body, but the two together. With these two means man can attain perfection."**

~ PLATO



# Shiv Morjaria: 1, Cancer: 0

By TRYGVE JENSEN, Drake '13

The simple buzz of a text message, a sound college students hear hundreds of times a day, can have a tremendous affect. Five men happily bantered around the lunch table after a busy weekend with athletics, spending time with friends, and most importantly, an impressive fundraising effort for their fraternity's philanthropy, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Iowa. **Jared Simmer, '14**, heard his phone buzz. He opened it and stopped mid-sentence. He showed the others at the table, and the joyous mood evaporated, as the five words settled into their hearts. "I think I have cancer," they read, and the lives of 102 men of the Iowa Delta Chapter were changed forever.

**Shiv Morjaria, Drake '14**, had sent the text. Morjaria was born and raised in Mombasa, an ethnically diverse city in Kenya. After excelling at the prestigious Aga Khan Academy, created to build future leaders in third world countries, Morjaria planned to attend "university" abroad. "It was always part of the plan," he said. "If you can afford it, you send your child away to go to university."



While Morjaria was uplifted by his brothers, they were as inspired by his optimism and determination to conquer his disease.

Morjaria applied to Drake, having heard of it from his next-door neighbor. He received the National Alumni Scholarship, full tuition given to only 16 of Drake's nearly 1,000 incoming freshman each year.

## On to Des Moines

In August 2010, Morjaria headed for Des Moines, Iowa, and his new life, leaving behind his family and friends. During Drake's Welcome Weekend for first-year students, Morjaria wasted no time, and met as many new classmates as possible, claiming to have met most of his dorm. He made two close friends, **Simmer** and **Austin Cooke, '14**.

The three quickly formed a bond, and planned to rush during fall fraternity recruitment. Morjaria decided to, "just rush for fun," and see the process.

"I walked into the red doors and that immediately changed," he said. "I was greeted warmly and was really impressed with everyone's achievements and the way they carried themselves. [They were] confident, not arrogant."

Morjaria fit in with the brothers of Iowa Delta immediately. Chapter President **Ryan Price, '13**, was extremely impressed with Morjaria. "He wasn't struggling to adapt to the United States from what I saw. He instead wanted to take advantage of everything Drake and SigEp had to offer him. [He would] ask what the best organizations were on campus and how to become a better leader."

In October, tragedy struck. While in the shower, Morjaria felt a lump between his arm and chest. He shrugged it off at first, but eventually decided to get tested. Simmer was with Morjaria when the doctor delivered the grim news; it was Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

With home so far away, Morjaria now suffered from a devastating disease with only student health insurance. Most can only imagine how lonely he felt.



Shiv Morjaria gets a heartfelt hug after his chapter was recognized with the Honor of Phillias Award at this year's Conclave.

## Brotherly Love

As word of his illness spread, support appeared. Due to his open and friendly personality, Morjaria gained the support and sympathies of an entire campus. Events were staged to raise money for cancer research; volunteers drove him to treatment, while others sat with him during the painful four-and-a-half months of chemotherapy. He describes the treatment as the, "worst I've ever felt."

"We were going to give him the best brotherly love SigEp had to offer. I think we might have even smothered him with the brotherly love at times," said Price.

Alumni and Volunteer Corporation President **Gary Ordway, '64**, foresaw troubles with insurance for Morjaria. Sure enough, his student insurance wouldn't cover treatment until completing their investigation of a pre-existing condition. The AVC sprang into action, raising money for Morjaria's out-of-pocket costs and offering to pay for Morjaria's mother to visit.

Morjaria also received support from the faculty at Drake, mainly due to the diligence of Iowa Delta Faculty Advisor **Deb Bishop**. A cancer survivor herself, Bishop empathized with Morjaria's family. "I was concerned with how he would cope with distance from family as well as just starting at Drake."

Morjaria feels the support of his brothers helped him the most. He'll be eternally grateful for gestures like bringing him soup while he was working one of his two jobs, leaving him little notes to show support, or simply playing a game of FIFA 11.

"The pinnacle of the support I received came when 35 brothers shaved their heads with me to raise money for cancer research. I sometimes think it was fate that led me to SigEp as their philanthropy

# SigEps on Semester at Sea

By **TOM JELKE**, Florida International '90

benefits the Lymphoma and Leukemia Society of Iowa: my exact disease! Too much of a coincidence,” said Morjaria.

All of the brothers vividly remember a chapter meeting in the spring of 2011 when Morjaria stood up during Remarks for the Good and Wellbeing of the Fraternity. “Brothers, the



During Morjaria's cancer treatments, his brothers shaved their heads to show their solidarity in helping him beat the disease. Needless to say, it worked.

scorecard is in,” he said, with his mischievous smile, “Shiv Morjaria: 1, Cancer: 0.” The room erupted with a standing applause.

Morjaria didn't beat cancer, he demolished it. He has earned an A in every class, in Drake's nationally acclaimed actuarial science program—while holding two on-campus jobs, volunteering with the student-alumni center, and serving on multiple SigEp committees.

## Shining example

Brothers say they have learned much from Morjaria. Cooke said, “Shiv has inspired me to do more and try and be a better person. Shiv has made people realize that, no matter how bad a situation may seem, you need to stay positive and work hard. Shiv is the man I hope my future son will be one day. I know he makes us, his Fraternity family, infinitely proud.”

Price summed up learning from his now cancer-free brother: “Most of us complain when it rains...but Shiv—he fought endless chemotherapy treatments, held 20 hours a week at work, ached a full course load of 18 credit hours and immersed himself in the Fraternity and campus, all while sporting his big Shiv smile and laughing louder than the rest of us.”

Semester at Sea is a different kind of study abroad program because you visit multiple locations during a semester. Students travel on a passenger ship, the MV Explorer, and visit eight to 12 international destinations. The rigorous class work is held on the ship and is coupled with field assignments and service learning opportunities in port. This powerful combination, “builds the skills necessary to compete in today's rapidly globalizing world,” according to Sal Moschella, vice president and COO for the Institute for Shipboard Education. The academic program onboard is sponsored and managed by the University of Virginia, the nation's second ranked public university. The faculty on board create highly engaging courses in a variety of fields. Credits earned are easily transferable to most institutions. The student body on any given voyage represents U.S. and international colleges and universities and a wide variety of majors. “This broad geographic and academic makeup helps create a robust learning and living environment,” Moschella added.

While the academic rigor on the ship is impressive, the beauty of the experience lies in the itinerary and the ability to visit multiple destinations. Students can see the world and take advantage of a comparative global education. They can learn in the classroom, tangibly experience what they have learned through field programs, and compare experiences in multiple countries and cultures. Imagine being able to study history, art, science, or business while observing the impact of various levels of historical and economic development, contrasting political systems, and great diversity of religious and cultural values. Recent SAS destinations include Egypt, Japan, Brazil, Kenya, South Africa, Cuba, China, Turkey, Croatia, Peru, Vietnam, Poland, Nicaragua, Myanmar, and India.

In many ways, the experience fits well with our cardinal principles and philosophies. The experience challenges students to think about what they are going to do about many of the problems that exist. They are expected to work hard academically, and to quest for culture and knowledge as they travel. They grow to understand and respect other people of the world. There is even a full gym and healthy options for food that



From left, Edward Edens, Illinois '12, Jelke, and Brian Tenclinger, Louisiana State '99, an Assistant Dean of Students for the program. These SigEps joined Jelke on one of his 2011 voyages of Semester at Sea.

align with our Sound Mind and Sound Body philosophy.

What I like best about Semester at Sea as a study abroad choice for SigEps is it provides an excellent option for people who want to study abroad but don't want to give up the opportunity to be a leader in the chapter. Too often, our chapters have potential leaders who are unable to run for office because they are abroad for a key

semester. Semester at Sea has two options in the summer that would alleviate that problem: a short semester lasts about 27 days starting at the end of May, and a summer semester lasts about 60 days. Indeed, the national Fraternity may begin looking at more formally partnering with Semester at Sea in the future to help encourage these options for our members.

**If you are interested in learning more about this program, go to the Semester at Sea website at [www.semesteratsea.org](http://www.semesteratsea.org).**



Tom Jelke made a furry friend on his latest trip in summer 2011. He serves on SigEp's National Board of Directors.



Fearlessness  
Fortitude  
Energy  
Vision

## **SigEps and start-ups** **Brothers** **bring the** **entrepreneurial** **spirit to life**

Fearlessness. Fortitude. Energy. Vision. These are a few words that describe the kind of person it takes to venture out into the world unattached to any organization and just begin. Begin to build. Begin to try. Begin to fail and redirect. Begin to change the landscape of business with a new idea, a new way or a new model. What exactly does it take to succeed? The stories on the following pages provide a view from three brothers who each have taken the plunge into entrepreneurial waters at different times in different circumstances. One jumped into the lightening-fast social media space. Another leapt into the business of fun while he was still in college. And a third has applied his years of knowledge about engineering and business to fund emerging businesses. And throughout this special section, you'll see the names of officers, 18 to be exact, who serve at companies listed among *Inc.* magazine's list of 500 fastest growing private companies in the country. Who do you know?





## Serial entrepreneur Rick Marini connects with the social media movement to succeed

By **MICHAEL MCDOWELL**, Nevada-Reno '03

**Rick Marini, New Hampshire '94**, embodies entrepreneurial spirit and diligence. His first award-winning business, Tickle (a site providing personal quizzes), was acquired by Monster in 2004 for more than \$100 million. Marini also founded SuperFan, an entertainment site that produced social games for world-class companies such as CBS, MTV, Sony and Universal Studios. Marini's newest venture is BranchOut—the leading professional networking service on Facebook. Already showing success, BranchOut allows users to discover and leverage the professional connections in their Facebook network to land their next job.

Already an ambitious person, Marini's time spent with Sigma Phi Epsilon helped create experiences that would give him the tools to be successful today.

"Being a leader in SigEp taught me how to motivate people to do great things together as a team," said Marini.

But, success is never by chance. Marini takes diligence to a whole new level. He treated his time in college as an investment and he was looking for the largest return on his investment. He made the most of every moment he had. Hard work was a part of his daily routine. He believed if he never quit, he could never fail. Marini said that getting ahead of one's peers requires three things: being smart, working harder and having a good attitude. He also points out that execution is the absolute key to success—whether for your chapter or for your career.

"Ideas are cheap," said Marini, "Execution is the hard part. There is a wealth of great ideas out there. The people that are successful are the ones who can execute those great ideas."

Marini also points to the importance of mentorship in success, an important factor in a great chapter and in a great business environment. Marini

**"The heart has its reasons that reason cannot know. I do not wish I had been more logical. I often wish I had been more passionate."**

~ BLAISE PASCAL

**Rick Marini, New Hampshire '94**, shed some light on how he has created three new media companies over the last decade at this year's Conclave.



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## “Ideas are cheap. Execution is the hard part.”

~ MARINI

says he trains his employees to be able to become a CEO within four years. He wants them to be able to take what they've learned from him and turn that into their own successes. “It feels good whenever I give back,” he explained, “I feel more balanced.”

Giving back is a strong element of Marini's fiber. He is currently looking for an undergraduate representative on each college campus across the nation. If you're an aspiring entrepreneur and would like to be involved with BranchOut, you can visit [branchout.com/map](http://branchout.com/map) for more information.

Marini's leadership is an undeniable factor in his companies' successes. He treats all relationships with respect, saying that every relationship matters even though some will be longer lasting than others.

“I'm not trying to micromanage people,” said Marini of his leadership style. “I recruit incredible talent and then it becomes my job to take hurdles out of their way and let them run as fast as possible.”

Hard work and determination have factored into Marini's success in a major way. He says that it's the people who are determined to change the world that often do. And changing the world can come in many different forms. There are opportunities for us all to make an impact.

“Whatever you're going to do, be a great one.” Espouses Marini, “Think big and then change the world.”

## Sigma Phi Epsilon Alumni on the 2010 list of *Inc. Magazine's* 500 Fastest Growing Private Companies

Compiled by Mindi Seidel,  
Research Coordinator

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### Jonathan D. Sisler, Florida '96

#### Coyote Logistics, CFO

Sisler served as the CFO of General Freight Services, Inc., and in their 2009 merger with Coyote Logistics, became CFO of the merged company, which retained the name Coyote Logistics. Prior to joining General Freight Services, Inc., he was Controller for the main business unit of Scovill Fasteners, Inc., and served as a Financial Assurance consultant with Arthur Andersen, LLP.

[www.coyotelogistics.com](http://www.coyotelogistics.com)

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### David Liddle, Ph.D., Michigan '67

#### MaxLinear, Board Member

Liddle has served on the MaxLinear board of directors since November 2004. Since January 2000, he has been associated with U.S. Venture Partners, a venture capital investment firm. Liddle co-founded and served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Interval Research Corporation, a computer-related research laboratory, and served as Vice President of New Systems Business Development, Personal Systems, for IBM Corporation. He also serves on the board of the New York Times Company.

[www.maxlinear.com](http://www.maxlinear.com)

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### Thomas E. Pardun, Iowa '65

#### MaxLinear, Board Member

Pardun has served on the board of directors for MaxLinear since July 2009 and has served as chairman of the board of directors of Western Digital Corporation since April 2007, a position he also held from January 2000 to November 2001. Pardun also serves on the boards of CalAmp Corp. and Occam Networks, Inc. He served as president of MediaOne International, Asia-Pacific and as president and chief executive officer of US West Multimedia Communications, Inc.

[www.maxlinear.com](http://www.maxlinear.com)

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### Gregory D. Dotson,

#### Huntingdon '89

#### Blurb, CTO

Dotson serves as the CTO at Blurb, an online, full-service resource for self-publishing authors to design, publish, market, and sell professional-quality books. Prior to Blurb, he was VP Product Development at Unicru. Dotson has over 20 years experience in technology development and delivery.

[www.blurb.com](http://www.blurb.com)

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### Richard C. Dietz,

#### Oregon State '84

#### ClearAccess, CFO

Dietz is the CFO of ClearAccess and brings 25 years of corporate finance experience, most recently with PreNet and Gardenburger where he held the position of Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary. At Gardenburger, Dietz raised \$100 million to support national branding efforts and retail expansion. He has also held senior level positions with Wyatt Software Inc., Fine Arts Graphics (ImageX.com), Blount Inc.'s Oregon Cutting Systems Division and Arthur Andersen LLP.

[www.clearaccess.com](http://www.clearaccess.com)

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### Steven R. Delmar,

#### Clemson '78

#### Integrity Management Consulting, CFO

Delmar has extensive experience managing financial and business operations including SEC financial reporting, accounting, financial planning and analysis, human resources, technology and risk management. He served as CFO at Microlog Corporation and as Senior Vice President and CFO at ACE\*COMM Corporation.

[www.consultwithintegrity.com](http://www.consultwithintegrity.com)





Awesome hoops action becomes possible for mere mortals on trampolines. That's just part of the draw for these indoor playhouses for children of all ages.

## One brother jumps at the challenge: Trampoline parks franchised nationwide

By MITCH GOLDICH, Lehigh '09

Life is meant to be enjoyed. That's why Jeff Platt, Washington in St. Louis '06, doesn't mind putting in the hours it takes to be CEO of a company that makes life more fun for thousands of customers each year.

"We're delivering fun," he says. "That's what we do." Platt takes his fun very seriously. That's the thinking behind his booming business of indoor trampoline parks.

If you haven't heard of an indoor trampoline park before, it's because Platt and his father Rick invented it. Rick opened the first Skyzone Sports complex in 2004 with the intention of starting a new sport played on trampolines. Unfortunately, it didn't take off. After local skateboarders asked to use the trampolines, the Platts decided to charge admission. Their new business was born.

### The big idea

The trampoline park is exactly what it sounds like. The elastic canvas stretches across a 15-30,000 square foot facility. The idea seems so simple, yet the Platts

are the first to come up with it. And they have the patent to prove it.

Each facility includes one area known as the main court, usually a 50-foot by 130-foot area for open jump. Or as Platt describes it, "Have fun, go crazy and jump around on trampolines like you never have been able to before."

Some sections are more specialized. Each outfit has one to three dodgeball courts, utilized by any group from birthday parties to college intramural leagues. Some open areas are perfect for fitness classes, while other sections hold unique features like foam pits and slam dunk courts.

"Everybody wants to learn how to dunk a basketball, so we're giving everyone a chance to do it," Platt said. "You can literally slam a basketball and feel like Michael Jordan."

### The class that changed everything

Platt is not ashamed to admit his intentions when he built his class schedule during his junior year. He was looking for an easy A when he stumbled across an entrepreneurship class. With his family's business plan already in his back pocket, this felt like a no-brainer. Little did he know the impact this class project would have on his life.

"My intention was never to actually get into business while in school," he recalled. "I got a lot of positive feedback and it motivated me to move forward to do this. I wanted a challenge—I wanted to take this on."

During his senior year, Platt hunted for real estate and negotiated a lease. In July 2006, six months after graduation, the doors to his St. Louis location opened.





**“The long term plan is to be an international company with an indoor trampoline park in every major city in the world.”**

~ JEFF PLATT,  
WASHINGTON IN  
ST. LOUIS '06

Once Jeff got more involved in the business, Rick stepped away from the day-to-day operations, ceding the reins to Jeff but staying involved in planning the company's strategic growth.

Suddenly Platt was the CEO of a company that now plans to cover the earth with places for customers to dunk, flip and stay fit.

### **An aggressive growth plan**

Since the business took off, Platt determined he could maximize revenue by offering franchises. Four of his seven locations are franchises, and an additional 40 have already been

awarded in some of the largest cities in the country.

That's not enough to satisfy Platt's need for growth and adventure. He aspires to reach 100 locations as fast possible, which he estimates will be in early 2013. He also has plans to take the company international, with a park going to Canada this year and explorations of locations in Australia and South Africa.

“The long term plan is to be an international company with an indoor trampoline park in every major city in the world,” he said. “I see no reason why we can't get to 500 or 1,000 units.”

While they initially offered a new product, Platt said that they now have almost 20 competitors. The roll-out schedule for new locations includes many cities where some of these competitors have already dug their heels into the local market—none of which scares Platt.

“We'll learn from what they're doing and do it better,” he said. “If competition scares you, then I don't see how you can be successful in any business.”

For Platt, the challenges are a critical part of what makes the business fun. “I take the attitude that if you're not challenged every day

at work, you're not going to have fun. If it doesn't keep you on your toes, why show up every day?”

While he admits the growth plan is aggressive, seven years of perfecting the business model since that first park opened means he certainly isn't rushing into his plan to cover the earth with his launching pads.

“I think I'm very lucky,” Platt said. “I remind myself every day. I'm 27, and I get to be in a position where I'm CEO of a company, get to work with great people and most of all we get to have fun.”

## **94 Mark B. McClellan, M.D., Ph.D., Texas-Austin '84 Extend Health, Advisory Board**

McClellan currently is with the Brookings Institution and American Enterprise Institute. Previously, he served as Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, Associate Professor of Economics at Stanford, Associate Professor of Medicine at Stanford Medical School and Director of the Program on Health Outcomes Research at Stanford. McClellan was Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Economic Policy and served in the White House as a Member of the President's Council of Economic Advisers.

[www.extendhealth.com](http://www.extendhealth.com)

## **117 Donald G. Shafer, Texas A&M '75 BancVue, Chairman/Co-Founder**

Shafer helped launch FundsXpress, used by more than 650 institutions, after establishing BancVue. In 2003, he developed REWARDChecking®, and took the account nationwide with BancVue. He served as CEO for BancLeasing and for Banking Solutions Inc., and worked in sales at what is now Goldleaf Financial Solutions. Shafer received the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award, 2011 for Central Texas.

[www.bancvue.com](http://www.bancvue.com)

## **119 David L. Highbarger, Missouri-Kansas City '89 WebSafe Shield, Management**

Highbarger is a pioneer in the online reputation, trust and security industry. He led the market research and product development for the Internet's first Web 2.0 Online Reputation System. Highbarger founded WebSafe Shield to meet the security needs of online retail operations and has worked with or advised clients including eBay, Best Buy and B&H Photo.

[www.websafeshield.com](http://www.websafeshield.com)

## **152 Arnold J. Goldberg, Florida '90 Box.net, Vice President of Engineering**

Goldberg is the Vice President of Engineering at Box, where he is responsible for the engineering and QA teams. Prior to joining Box he was the VP of Platform Engineering at LinkedIn, and spent seven years at eBay initially focusing on site technology and architecture and eventually managing the Systems Development Team as Senior Director-Engineering. Goldberg also worked in software development and engineering at Hyperion Software, IBM, ABB and Harris Corporation.

[www.box.net](http://www.box.net)

## **152 Dylan C. Smith, Duke '08 Box.net, Co-Founder/CFO**

Smith is Chief Financial Officer and co-founder of Box, where he leads finance, investor relations and other operations. He has been instrumental in Box's growth and development since starting the company with co-founder Aaron Levie while in college. He has been named one of BusinessWeek's top five Entrepreneurs under 25. Prior to Box, Smith spent time earning Box's seed funding through various entrepreneurial endeavors.

[www.box.net](http://www.box.net)

## **154 Sean T. McNunn, Iowa State '90 Triplefin, CTO**

McNunn has almost two decades of technology development and implementation experience. He joined Triplefin in 2009 and is responsible for IT operations for the Triplefin family of companies. McNunn has built and managed professional services practices in various supply chain management technology companies domestically and internationally and is experienced in all aspects of using technology to support business functions ranging from manufacturing to distribution to financial management.

[www.triplefin.com](http://www.triplefin.com)



Bochnowski

## Venture capitalist helps entrepreneurs launch new businesses

By **RYAN M. BRENNAN**, Truman State '95

Many SigEp brothers have had tremendous success as entrepreneurs and innovators. Understanding the unique story behind someone's new business idea, service or product and identifying market-moving technologies or disruptive business models is a vital function in the world of startups and high growth small businesses. SigEp alumni who work in venture capital help to invest and guide entrepreneurs like the ones you've been hearing about.

All entrepreneurs need resources, such as intellectual resources, industry contacts, guidance and mentorship, or simply financial resources. Venture capital firms exist to provide all of that to these startup companies.

**James "Jim" Bochnowski, MIT '65**, has been a leader in the venture capital world for over three decades. He founded Delphi Ventures in 1988 and made his first investment with Delphi in 1989. The firm now primarily focuses in health-care and biotechnology. Delphi was a spinoff of Technology Venture Investors, which he co-founded in 1981, focusing on investments in medical and technology startups. Prior to that, he was an entrepreneur and led a venture capital-backed technology company, Shugart Associates from 1976 to 1980. As the company's CEO, Bochnowski helped take its annual revenues from \$13 million to \$200 million in just a few years. Shugart was eventually acquired by technology giant Xerox.

With experience on both sides of the table, where he has grown and led, as well as invested in, successful companies, he knows this line of work is as much about buying into people as it is about financing their idea. He looks for important characteristics of a successful entrepreneur, and he sees commonalities with the numerous entrepreneurs and portfolio companies that he works closely with.

"They have to be bright and have a solid track record. They also have to be passionate about their particular

venture and be willing to make big, big sacrifices on a daily basis. Integrity, intellectual honesty, and the ability to be a straight shooter are all extremely important...and also of course they must be a leader with principles," said Bochnowski.

This focus on values and principled leadership is something Bochnowski gained both in the military as an aerospace engineer following graduation, as well as during his time as an undergraduate SigEp at MIT.

"The fraternity is indeed a valuable experience. Being a military brat growing up, I never spent too much time in one place, and it was the first time I'd been in the same place for four years. The process of growing through the support network of my chapter, with my brothers, and becoming chapter president, helped me learn a lot about myself and my values. It also helped me learn about things that I needed to change to be effective, thanks to honest feedback from other chapter members," said Bochnowski.

Bochnowski explained that, much like SigEp members, entrepreneurs must focus on being effective and balanced leaders. He said, "They need to be a person who can identify with the people they're leading and can also lead through other people. They need to understand and empathize with their peers' points of view. They don't necessarily have to agree with everyone, but they need to value opinions and feedback. Listening is such a crucial skill."

Considering Bochnowski's comments on what it takes to be a successful entrepreneur and venture capitalist, it's no wonder SigEp has so many great examples. Next time you see that great new idea or product, there's a good chance a SigEp was at the table when it all came to fruition.

**Brennan serves on SigEp's Educational Foundation board of trustees as vice president of development. He is a venture capitalist with Advantage Capital Partners.**

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**Fredric E. Roth, Wright State '77**

**Freedom Group, General Counsel, Chief Compliance Officer and Secretary**  
Roth has almost three decades of experience in the corporate legal field. Prior to joining the Freedom Group, he held Counsel and executive positions with Siemens, UST, Inc., Olin Corporation and General Dynamics Corporation, Fort Worth Division.  
[www.freedom-group.com](http://www.freedom-group.com)

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**Anthony W.C. Fung, Pittsburgh '97**  
**Catapult Consultants, CEO/Chairman**

Fung was one of Catapult's founders; today he holds managing control of the firm. A business strategist and executive with more than a decade of experience designing and implementing financial and program management solutions, he works with an array of government and commercial clients. Prior to Catapult Consultants, Fung was engaged in multi-million-dollar financial, management and information technology consulting engagements at American Management Systems, Commerce One and the U.S. Postal Service.  
[www.catapultconsultants.com](http://www.catapultconsultants.com)

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**Stephen A. Singlar, New Hampshire '94**

**Single Digits, Founder/President**

Singlar is the founder of Single Digits, where he is responsible for the company's long-term goals and strategic partnerships. He brings over a decade of experience in aspects of technology including sales, marketing, support and management. Before establishing Single Digits, Steve held senior global sales positions for Enterasys and worked at Cisco Systems and Arrowpoint Communications, receiving each company's top achievement awards as well as recognition for his success at Cabletron Systems.  
[www.singledigits.com](http://www.singledigits.com)

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**Theodore-Donn S. Escario, George Mason '97**

**Phase One Consulting Group, Creative Services Manager**

Escario attended the Art Institute of Atlanta, graduating with honors. He currently designs campaigns and materials for web interfaces, presentations and marketing campaigns. Prior to Phase One Consulting Group, Escario worked in graphic design, marketing and branding for local, regional and national clients while at Dickey Publishing and InZone Brands, Inc.  
[www.phaseonecog.com](http://www.phaseonecog.com)

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**Peter A. Bordes, New England College '85**

**Media Trust, Founder/CEO**

Bordes spent much of his early career in banking and venture capital. He was a founder of Mason Cabot investment bank and founder and chairman of Empire Media, Inc. Bordes is an investor, advises or serves on the boards of a number of traditional, new media and technology companies including PeekYou.com, AdventureUS.com and Greater Media Inc., and is a founding charter member and on the board of directors of the Performance Marketing Association.  
[www.mediatrust.com](http://www.mediatrust.com)

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**Ronald L. Seward, Michigan State '66**

**Deep Water Point, Principal**

Seward has over 40 years of management experience in technical and business development positions. His career began at AT&T where he performed a wide variety of technical and marketing duties. Promoted to national sales manager of the Federal Systems organization, Seward successfully led a nationwide team of 235 employees and ascended to the position of director of the marketing staff. He has worked for several companies in the federal IT industry and played a key role in helping his clients win over \$8 billion in contracts.  
[www.deepwaterpoint.com](http://www.deepwaterpoint.com)



# Alumni & Volunteer News

## Band leader traces success to supportive SigEp roots

By **NICHOLAS MARTIN**, Massachusetts '10

In his very first home game as drum major at Morehead State, **Mike Arthur**, **Morehead State '99**, saw his emotions run wild. Nervous and excited, Arthur worried about not only the band in front of him, but the fans behind. A recent member in SigEp, Arthur thought some of his brothers might be in that crowd, but didn't know what to expect.

Since most members of his chapter were athletes, Arthur worried what they'd think. "When I said I was a music major, they thought that was pretty cool," Arthur admitted, but didn't know what to expect until turning around.

"I'll never forget this big sea of guys in the middle wearing SigEp shirts," Arthur remembered, "yelling and screaming as if I were the starting quarterback. They

were completely supportive."

Arthur credits this ongoing support from his SigEp brothers for getting him to where he is today.

### Among top 10 in the country

Last year, in his 10th year as Director of the Eastern High School Marching



Mike Arthur walks proudly with his players along the parade route.

Band just outside Louisville, Ky., Arthur became one of only 10 band directors whose band was chosen to participate in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Despite the decision, the band's road to New York City remained tenuous.

Deciding to wait to deliver the news at the band's annual banquet two and half weeks later, Arthur anxiously took to the podium to address his band members, their parents, and local media outlets. Confused faces stared back up at him as cameras began to roll.

"The kids were completely surprised, and I was shaking when I made the



The Eastern High School Marching Wildcats take their place in holiday history at the 2010 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

announcement," Arthur recalls, "but then the reality set in. We had to raise money."

The group then became instantly responsible for raising the \$1,000 per band member required to cover hotel costs and airfare. They immediately set to fundraising, but the tough economy left the public school students and their families scrambling.

### Thinking outside the band

In October, the band was still \$30,000 short of its goal, which would have forced them to leave 30 students behind, unacceptable to this band director. Arthur took to the airwaves, pleading to anyone who would listen that his students needed assistance.

"I called everyone and said that the students needed the money to participate, and the community got behind us. Donations just rolled in. In two weeks, we had all the money we needed, and all 152 members of the band were able to go."

The hard work wasn't over for the band, though. Only after a 4 a.m. practice that included a step-by-step walkthrough as NBC camera crews followed the apprehensive students around, was the Eastern High School Band ready to take the parade stage and be watched by millions.

"There were celebrities all around, and it seemed like a dream," Arthur explained. "People were screaming 'Go Wildcats! Go Eastern!' The looks on the children's faces said it all, though. It truly was a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

Neither Arthur nor the Eastern High School Marching Band is finished. Arthur says that the band remains on a two-year "large trip schedule," with a stop in Disneyland scheduled for 2012.

### Making a difference, daily

Arthur admits to missing his undergraduate days as a SigEp, but he still talks to his brothers weekly. When asked what advice he'd give to SigEp undergraduates looking to teach, his answer came easy.

"The one thing that you have to understand is that, once you get in the classroom, those students will do anything for you if they know you care. Do everything you can everyday to make a difference in that kid's life. You don't know what's going on in their home situation, and your hardest days are the ones where you're going to most need to be there for them."

# Dayton SigEp publishes book on Marine Corps leader

By KEVIN LYNCH, Maryland-College Park '08

David Ulbrich, Dayton '93, recently published his first book, *Preparing for Victory: Thomas Holcomb and the Making of the Modern Marine Corps, 1936–1943* with Naval Institute Press. The book details the exploits of Marine Corps Commandant Thomas Holcomb, a model of leadership in difficult and changing times.

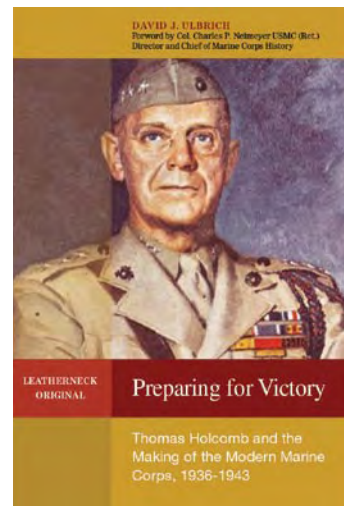
Ulbrich was one of the founding fathers of the Ohio Rho Chapter at Dayton. This experience allowed Ulbrich the unique opportunity to be involved in the leadership of his chapter as a younger member. While the seniors were organizing and ensuring the chartering of the chapter, Ulbrich was assigned to the position of pledge educator, and was placed in charge of the development of the chapter's new members. Due to the support of senior members, like Steve Dorth, Dayton '92, Ulbrich, early on, experienced leadership by leading a pledge class of 16 members.

Ulbrich graduated from Dayton and continued his education, earning a master's and eventually a doctorate in history. It was during this time that Ulbrich's interest in Thomas Holcomb developed. Holcomb was suggested as a

potential subject for his master's dissertation, and Ulbrich continued writing about him during his academic career. These writings and research compiled over 17 years culminated in *Preparing for Victory*.

During that time, Ulbrich has served as a faculty advisor to the chapter at Ohio State, where he funded a scholarship dinner. Brothers earning above a 3.0 GPA were treated to steaks. When writing, Ulbrich said he immerses himself in the research first, collecting information from countless sources. He then begins writing and will go back to research points that need to be filled in.

Ulbrich said that Holcomb's development as a leader is a lesson in agility and a validation of SigEp's own member development process. Holcomb had to learn how to adjust his leadership style to changing circumstances in the high-risk environment of a modern military force. Ulbrich said that SigEp offers many of the same opportunities in a safer, less risky environment. Holcomb was a commandant of the Marine Corps during an isolationist America and in the ramp up



to a World War—this forced him to adapt to wildly different conditions of budget and public perception, something that all organizations must handle.

Ulbrich now works as a historian for the United States Army Engineering School. In addition to his normal duties as a historian, Ulbrich assists the Army in completing After Action Reviews, evaluating policy and interviewing soldiers involved in combat events.



Left to right: Brothers John "Bill" Parnell, '02, Teddy Masi, '02, Jerry Bauer, '02, Brian Richie, '03, and Rob Rickerson, '03, keep taking their friendship to new heights like the top of Mount Hood. The latest climb saw Bauer, Masi and Richie reach the top of Mount Shasta.

## SigEps make short work of Mount Shasta

Tennessee-Martin brothers John "Bill" Parnell, '02, Teddy Masi, '02, Jerry Bauer, '02, Brian Richie, '03, and Rob Rickerson, '03, began backpacking together during their freshman year. Although they have been through many life changes in the 13 years since, they have always reunited for mountain adventures.

As undergraduates, the brothers took multiple-day backpacking trips in the Appalachians of East Tennessee. After graduation, they moved to different parts of the country, but reunited for additional trips in Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky, and Illinois.

In May 2011, Bauer, Masi, and Richie set out on their most ambitious trip: California's 14,179-foot Mt. Shasta. This two-day climb had over 7,000 feet of elevation gain from trailhead to summit. Further complicating matters, the three brothers weren't able to acclimate to high altitude in advance. For several months, they trained by running, biking, and climbing stairs. The hard work paid off and at 11:54 a.m. PDT on May 22, 2011, they stood together on Shasta's summit—the second highest point in the Cascade Range. On the descent, Masi injured his knee. Bauer and Richie divided and carried his gear and the three were able to safely return to the trailhead together.



## Just a mile: 50 marathons in 50 states will honor a friend and raise suicide awareness

By SALVATORE MOSCHELLI, Lawrence Tech '00

In 2008, the chapter at Eastern Illinois University changed. Their chapter brother, **Jesse A. Mounce, '09**, had taken his life. Not only was Mounce's passing an enormous tragedy for his family, but it also was a polarizing event for the chapter, and a defining moment for one chapter member, **Mike Nowak, '08**. "The confusion and disbelief that followed that day in February was the most impactful time of my life. I watched 100 members of my Fraternity family lined up in a hallway crying not knowing what to do, and it broke my heart. Being one of the oldest members of the Fraternity and a vocal leader, I once again chose to care for others first and worry about myself second. I pushed it all to the back of my mind as I'd become so accustomed to doing and went into protective mode," he said.

What the Illinois Nu Chapter brothers didn't know was that Nowak had his own demons and was struggling with depression and the need to please everyone else. Nowak was accustomed to playing that role as he had recently finished up his term as Interfraternity Council president, and was very active around campus. All that focus on leading others masked Nowak's own feelings of abandonment, guilt and anger after the early passing of his father, with whom he had an unresolved and troubled past.

### Sticking together

For the chapter, the time after Mounce's death became one of unity and brotherhood. Events like softball and spending time at the house had more meaning because everyone was together, as a chapter. Brothers who didn't live at the house were staying over regularly.

Members began to seek grief counseling together. Nowak remembers that it felt okay and commonplace for one brother to ask another to go to counseling together. Nowak took advantage of this. The counseling helped him to move beyond the loss of Jesse Mounce, and take the opportunity to deal with what he had been feeling.

Nowak, the strong student leader, was no longer afraid of being 'soft' or embarrassed to reach out for help. He began to realize that he still had the same respect or more from those around him, and people were able to relate to him better

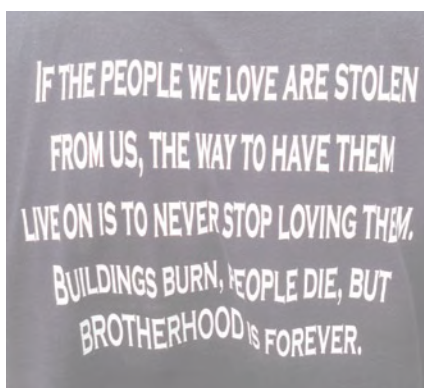
because he was sharing his feelings.

Nowak soon came to the realization that he had to change from reacting to his challenges to becoming proactive about life. He signed up for the Chicago Marathon a few weeks after Mounce's passing, though he had not

run at any length. As Nowak trained, he broke personal milestones, all the while crediting Mounce for showing him there was more to accomplish in life.

### Sound Mind and Sound Body in action

In Nowak's own spin on Sound Mind and Sound Body, he created Just-A-Mile, named using Jesse's initials, with the goal to run 50 marathons in 50 states to raise money and awareness in support of mental health and suicide prevention on college campuses. He felt creating something athletic that the average student, and especially brothers, around college campuses could relate to, would help others seek help and be able to learn from his story. Just-A-Mile soon partnered with Active Minds, an organization growing chapters on college



Above, Mike Nowak with Jesse Mounce's sister (left) and mom at the Indianapolis Marathon in 2010. Running has taken on a new dimension for Nowak as a way to merge miles and mental health. Left, a saying on a memorial to Mounce that inspired Nowak to do something big.

campuses across the nation, which works to increase students' awareness of mental health issues, provide information and resources regarding mental health and mental illness, encourage students to seek help as soon as it is needed, and serve as liaison between students and the mental health community.

Nowak's vision is that, as he schedules marathons throughout each year (seven marathons in 2011), he may be able to share his story with local SigEp chapters in hopes that they increase their understanding of how to handle emotions in a healthy way. In turn, chapters may feel inspired to provide support and sponsorship for this worthy endeavor. He encourages brothers to start their own chapter of Active Minds on campus, and reach out to him if there is any way he can share his message. For more information, go to [www.justamile.org](http://www.justamile.org).

# Fulbright scholar brings safe drinking water to Honduras

By MATT FREEMAN, Cornell '08



Jeff Will, Cornell '10

**“The key is to keep company only with people who uplift you, whose presence calls forth your best.”**

~ EPICTETUS

Across the globe, nearly one billion people lack access to safe drinking water, and Jeff Will, Cornell '10, is doing something about it. Will moved to Honduras in July 2011, where he is helping to improve the design of rapid sand filters at municipal-scale water treatment plants. The plants serve communities otherwise lacking access to clean, safe drinking water. Will, a founding father of the recently re-chartered New York Beta Chapter, was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to establish standard operating procedures for the water-treatment filters and perform on-site tests to increase efficiency and improve future designs.

The technology Will researches is a breakthrough approach to drinking water treatment in the developing world. The plants are designed to operate without standard supply chains or electricity, bringing water to 25,000 Hondurans. The idea, Will said, “is to minimize moving parts, and make operation easy for someone with no more than a sixth-grade education.”

While the goal is a noble one, the biggest challenge to Will's work is funding the development of a technology not needed in the West. From an engineering standpoint, water treatment has been a relatively quiet field in the developed world for over 50 years.

Will has been involved with work in Honduras since 2008, and most recently coordinated 14 student teams as the student leader of AguaClara, a program in Cornell's College of Engineering. Through a partnership with a Honduran non-governmental organization, AguaClara's designs and technology have been used to construct six municipal-scale water treatment plants across the country.

As an undergraduate, Will also served his chapter as chaplain. Through his work on several tough cases, he devel-



oped the capacity to keenly understand a complex situation from someone else's perspective. This skill lends itself to the Fulbright philosophy of mutual understanding. Will observed that, “The Fulbright program exists to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. To that end, my leadership in SigEp was instrumental.”

Options for further impact abound for this skilled and compassionate SigEp. Will is excited about two more plants being built in Honduras and notes that African communities using surface water sources could also benefit from his work. “It is an important service, but it is easy to get discouraged. We could build 1,000 plants a year in Central America alone and still not come close to meeting the demand,” he emphasized.

Jeff Will (blue shirt) working with a structural engineer and construction foreman checking out the inspection box that offers a view of all the water drain pipes. Getting clean water to Honduras has kept Will busy for several years, and the needs still not met promise to keep him engaged for quite some time to come.



## Grand President's Report

*This report was issued at the 2011 Grand Chapter Conclave.*



By **GARRY KIEF**, Southern California '70

Brothers,  
Two years ago we met together in Orlando and charted our course for the future.

For many of us, in fact probably for most of us, SigEp has always represented not only a glorious past, but also the potential for a future of

unending possibilities.

I hope SigEp means the same to you.

In a world that delights in publicizing failure, SigEp focuses on success.

And in an era when the whole universe seems to be dumbing down, SigEp celebrates smarting up.

Together our potential is unlimited.

Together our growth and success can advance not only higher education, but also the Greek system across our country.

Each year, thousands of parents watch their kids leave home for school. Together they worry and wonder how their sons will manage the responsibilities that

come with their new independence and their new environment.

My hope is that their sons find SigEp...a home away from home, a safe and healthy place with undergraduates who are equally talented and driven to succeed. I hope parents will see a SigEp chapter with volunteer mentors who know that the collegiate years represent the most transformative time of a young man's life. And that they see local and national programs that help their son develop both his Sound Mind and his Sound Body.

### Building in challenging times

I know that building a welcoming SigEp home and a great SigEp chapter is not easy. Resources, time and tenacity are required. I became Grand President at a very challenging time in our country. The stock market had just plummeted, and companies tightened their belts.

In that environment, I was determined to work with the staff and our volunteers not just to keep our undergraduate programs and services running, but to work even harder to improve them. I also wanted to improve our communication, technology, and information management platforms. I believe we accomplished what we set out to do.

With fewer financial resources, we restructured our staff to put an additional regional director on the road, increased the number of staff members focused on alumni and volunteer services, and built a communications team that scrapped the band-aid approach to technology and managed to bring SigEp into the 21st century.

We've found our way onto Linked In, Twitter, and Facebook. Thousands of you jumped onto our official SigEp sites. And for the past eight months we've been merging our disparate databases into a single database that lives on the cloud. Today we use a database

Today, 64 chapters have an active recruitment mentor.

where phone calls are logged, and official correspondence is not only attached to a member's record, it is retrieved with the click of a mouse. This means less time repeating yourself to new staff members and more time achieving our mission.

Later this fall, you will see more tangible changes on our website. It will become more of a central touch point with the national Fraternity. And the information you enter there will go right into our database.

You'll have a more personal interaction with SigEp, as more information is captured and shared. Equally important, the staff is becoming a better steward of data, and over time the quality of our data will improve, resulting in better decision making and better service for you.

## Top 30 Chapters in recruitment

**These chapters rank in the Top 30 in recruitment for the '10-'11 academic year. These men are registered with Fraternity Headquarters. Recruit men to your chapter using programs such as a Balanced Man Scholarship, summer recruitment plans and maximizing the formal recruitment period. Congratulations to these chapters for setting the bar high for new members.**

Rank	School	New members	Rank	School	New members
1	San Diego State*	81	16	Illinois*	51
2	Oklahoma*	73	17	UCLA	50
3	Kansas State*	70	18	Virginia Tech	50
4	Texas Tech	66	19	South Carolina	48
5	Purdue	63	20	South Florida*	48
6	Alabama SEC	62	21	Boston U. SEC	46
7	Oklahoma State*	62	22	California-Santa Barbara	46
8	Texas-Austin	61	23	Ohio State*	46
9	Florida	58	24	Wisconsin*	46
10	Arkansas	55	25	California-Irvine	45
11	Florida State SEC	55	26	Nevada-Reno	45
12	Louisiana State	54	27	Cincinnati*	44
13	Indiana*	53	28	Colorado	44
14	Missouri State*	53	29	Iowa	44
15	Utah	52	30	Kansas *	44

\*Residential Learning Community

## Top 30 Chapters with most improved recruitment

**These chapters showed significant improvement in the number of men they recruited in the '10-'11 academic year. Some doubled the size of their new member groups. How did they do it? A focused plan, detailed execution and maximum use of our most powerful recruitment tools: the Balanced Man Scholarship and summer recruitment.**

Rank	School	7/1/09-6/30/10	7/1/10-6/30/11	Diff.
1	Kansas State*	27	70	43
2	Oklahoma State*	25	62	37
3	San Diego State*	53	81	28
4	Virginia Tech	23	50	27
5	Arkansas	30	55	25
6	Florida	33	58	25
7	Purdue	39	63	24
8	Utah	31	52	21
9	Texas-Austin	41	61	20
10	Western Michigan	15	34	19
11	California State-Sacramento	17	35	18
12	Missouri State*	35	53	18
13	Iowa	27	44	17
14	North Carolina State	20	37	17
15	Washington State*	24	41	17
16	Truman State	15	30	15
17	Columbia	19	33	14
18	Houston	17	30	13
19	Pennsylvania State	14	27	13
20	Pepperdine	22	35	13
21	South Florida*	35	48	13
22	Arizona State	30	42	12
23	California-San Diego	14	26	12
24	Elon*	15	27	12
25	Missouri S & T	19	31	12
26	Pittsburgh	14	26	12
27	Wisconsin*	34	46	12
28	California-Davis	16	27	11
29	Maryland-College Park*	22	33	11
30	Washington	24	35	11

\*Residential Learning Community

## Serving you

Service is a general term, but SigEp service means something very specific: knowledgeable, committed and focused people delivering the programs and support that make the Fraternity great.

I hope you've seen and felt a difference in the staff's approach to programs and service the past two years.

I've always felt that collaboration among undergraduates, volunteers, and staff drives the best results. If that is true, the numbers tell me we're doing a better job working together.

For the first time in the Fraternity's history, the average member has achieved a 3.10 GPA. As our chapters' competitive spirit increases, so does our academic performance. Almost half of our chapters are above the all-campus average, an increase of 10 percent over two years.

And we're seeing this increase in academic achievement as more and more men join our Fraternity.

In 2009-2010, SigEp underperformed with respect to recruitment. With 5,872 new members nation-wide, we were well below the Fraternity's three-year average of 5,973. In response, we focused on proactively supporting chapters in recruitment through services and programs.

## Proactive support

We overhauled our regional directors' summer development program and refocused priorities. We created a more experiential Carlson Leadership Academy that included a recruitment track for non-chapter officers.

Chapters succeed when they have a dedicated volunteer mentoring the vice president of recruitment and his committee. For the last two years, we have worked to increase the number of volunteers committed to this role. Today, 64 chapters have an active recruitment mentor.

Over the past two years, we have spent dedicated time helping our chapters implement the Balanced Man Scholarship on their campus. Today, 160 SigEp chapters offer an annual Balanced Man Scholarship. Last academic year 6,401 undergraduates joined Sigma Phi Epsilon, almost a 10 percent increase over the previous year and the first time in 18 years that we reached that mark.



Grand President Kief (left) enjoyed his final days in office with a few undergraduates from Central Missouri.

In my acceptance speech I said "sales" is not a dirty word...if we have a product that we believe in, that we are proud of, then we should be confident enough to sell it. The Balanced Man Ideal and continuous development are a powerful offer. It's what makes SigEp different on campus. When we live Sound Mind and Sound Body, and provide a continuous development program, we are the dominant student organization on campus.

## Building tomorrow's leaders

In my travels as Grand President, I have heard many of you express your concerns about our undergraduate development programs. I'm concerned as well. Too many of our upperclassmen are leaving SigEp.

We struggle to provide value to and retain our juniors and seniors. These men should be our chapter leaders. Their pres-

ence is invaluable to the younger members of our chapters. In a few years, they should be our key volunteers and donors.

Their development needs are significantly different. Internships, jobs, future career plans, relationships, and other leadership opportunities often give them reason to leave Sigma Phi Epsilon. We must make these things a reason to stay.

To that end, I have asked a task force to investigate the reasons behind our junior and senior attrition and recommend a program that addresses upperclassmen concerns. The board has also allocated a portion of this year's budget to support future programming for juniors and seniors. We also allocated more of the Fraternity's annual revenue to our existing leadership programs, resident scholars, and Residential Learning Community growth.

## Top 30 Chapters in

# percentage growth

These 31 chapters (including a four-way tie for the last slot) saw the greatest percentage increase in their membership. As you can see, some of our smallest chapters made great strides in replenishing their ranks while significantly growing membership. The top eight chapters on the list increased membership by more than 50 percent and all had at least a 25 percent jump.

#	School	2010	2011	Add'l Members	% Growth	#	School	2010	2011	Add'l Members	% Growth
1	North Carolina-Charlotte	19	36	17	90%	16	John Carroll	41	55	14	34%
2	Arkansas	45	75	30	67%	17	St. John's	33	44	11	33%
3	Pennsylvania	27	44	17	63%	18	Thiel	33	44	11	33%
4	Pittsburgh	37	59	22	60%	19	Northeastern	64	83	19	30%
5	California State-Sacramento	26	41	15	58%	20	Iowa	76	98	22	29%
6	Jacksonville State	21	32	11	52%	21	Maryland-College Park*	65	84	19	29%
7	Indiana Tech	25	38	13	52%	22	Missouri S&T	55	71	16	29%
8	Utah	53	80	27	51%	23	Northern Kentucky	52	67	15	29%
9	California-Davis	33	49	16	49%	24	Case Western*	57	73	16	28%
10	Virginia Tech	69	97	28	41%	25	Louisiana State	131	167	36	28%
11	Western Michigan	39	55	16	41%	26	Vermont	43	55	12	28%
12	Wisconsin-Platteville*	25	35	10	40%	27	George Mason	52	66	14	27%
13	Salisbury	26	36	10	39%	28	Christopher Newport	53	66	13	25%
14	Arizona State	60	82	22	37%	29	Louisville	44	55	11	25%
15	Pepperdine	60	81	21	35%	30	North Carolina	40	50	10	25%
						31	Tennessee-Martin	24	30	6	25%

\*Residential Learning Community



## Program Growth

By June 30, 2011, almost 16,000 undergraduates were a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon. To give you some perspective, our undergraduate rolls have grown by 11 percent over the last five years.

Neither leadership program participation nor funding is growing at the same rate. During the 2010-2011 fiscal year, roughly a third of our members participated in a leadership program. We need to expand our reach to deliver our programming to a higher percentage of our members. Our programs inspire members to raise the bar at their home chapter and, in many ways, set the tone for the Greek system.

Our goal is, and should always be, to keep chapters open and thriving. Over the past year, I can proudly say we have not closed a single chapter. We've come close a few times, but each time we've been surprised by a chapter's ability to make difficult decisions that address concerns and put the chapter on a path to success. I want to congratulate Kent State, Southern Mississippi, and East Carolina for setting the precedent of appealing directly to the National Board of Directors. I hope other chapters are able to follow their example in the future.

## Elevating the volunteer voice

In 2009, I spoke about the need to have more volunteers engaged at the regional

**Our undergraduate rolls have grown by 11 percent over the last five years.**

and national level. Today, we have more than 200 individuals

serving in one or more of these roles.

Many are members of the more than 30 committees and task forces asked to address certain areas of the Fraternity's operations. These groups have recommended programming changes, refined our Residential Learning Community agenda, shaped our approach to Conclave and influenced our approach to recruitment and volunteer engagement.

## A community of local support

SigEp continues to move forward because of the commitment from its volunteers. These men and women support local chapter operations, mentor undergraduate members, provide safe housing, and ensure regular, professional communication to alumni. Our leading chapters continue to thrive because they have a strong network of alumni-volunteer support.

When we began this academic year, we had more than 2,500 volunteers supporting our chapters locally. This may seem like a lot, but we need more. We have an incredible opportunity to engage young alumni who can share positive and very relevant experiences with undergraduate members as they leave college and enter the professional world. Over the past two years, we have increased communications to graduating seniors, promoted the Resident Scholar program, and pushed the recruitment of balanced man stewards and recruitment mentors, positions well suited for young alumni with a strong chapter experience.

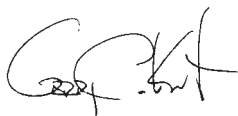
There is so much to be proud of and, yet, so much untapped potential. It has been an honor to serve you the past two years.

I believe that together we have made major strides.

Each of you—undergrad, alumni, volunteer, and staff—should be extremely proud of the impact you've had on our Fraternity.

It's great to be your Brother.

And it's great to be a SigEp.



## Blazing the Trail of Innovation

# One RLC at a time

By SHANE MCKEE, Washington State Renaissance

The Sigma Phi Epsilon Strategic Plan clearly states that one of our strategic priorities is, "Develop and maintain quality residential learning facilities." During the past year the Residential Learning Community (RLC) Task Force, in collaboration with the Headquarters staff, diligently expanded our number of RLC chapters, worked with our existing RLC chapters to maintain their excellence, and educated potential chapters on how to build the foundation for a future RLC. Though 46 of our 240 chapters have earned RLC accreditation, we have much progress to make as we continue to develop, refine, expand, and educate our chapters, volunteers, and higher education partners on the importance and implementation of this program.

## Top 30 Chapters in manpower

Below are the 32 largest SigEp chapters in the nation for 2011 (Note the three-way tie for the final slot.) To make this list, a chapter must have more than 100 men. These top manpower chapters represent 13 percent of our 240 chapters. In sheer numbers of men, however, these 3,983 undergraduates account for 26 percent of the 15,191 registered on March 1, 2011.

Rank	School	Manpower	Rank	School	Manpower
1	Oklahoma*	214	18	Texas Tech	112
2	Texas-Austin	184	19	Cincinnati*	110
3	Louisiana State	167	20	Drake*	110
4	Illinois*	156	21	Oklahoma State*	110
5	San Diego State*	154	22	UCLA	109
6	Florida	141	23	Kansas State*	108
7	Texas Christian*	140	24	Yale	108
8	Ohio State*	139	25	Georgia*	107
9	Auburn	133	26	Oregon State*	105
10	Nebraska*	129	27	Missouri State*	103
11	Miami (Ohio)*	127	28	Wisconsin*	103
12	Southern Methodist*	124	29	Toledo*	102
13	Michigan	123	30	Kansas*	101
14	South Carolina	117	31	Washington in St. Louis	101
15	Indiana*	116	32	Washington State*	101
16	Loyola Marymount	116			
17	Colorado	113			

\*Residential Learning Community

## What is the RLC program?

The Sigma Phi Epsilon Residential Learning Community is designed to create a living-learning environment that strengthens the traditional fraternity experience through faculty engagement, additional emphasis on academic and career development, a highly engaged volunteer group, and a closer partnership with the host institution. The RLC is not just a common study room or library. The RLC and its ideals must permeate all aspects of the undergraduate experience, both inside and outside of the Fraternity house.

## How does a chapter become an RLC?

Achieving and maintaining RLC accreditation is simple, especially if the foundational pieces are put into place, assessed on a regular basis, and sustainable. RLC applications are evaluated on many factors by the RLC Task Force, and the general requirements include:

**(1) dedicated substance-free academic space in the facility,**

**(2) a strong academic plan and a chapter GPA above 3.0, and/or above the all-campus average,**

**(3) consistent engagement with one or more faculty fellows,**

**(4) a well-developed four-year continuous member development plan,**

**(5) a highly involved AVC that supports and mentors the undergraduate chapter, and**

**(6) an application that demonstrates excellence in the chapter's core areas and that can articulate how the RLC will permeate all aspects of the chapter.**

Chapters that do not have a facility need not be discouraged. This is not a requirement, as there are ways to build your chapter into an RLC as well.

## What sets RLC chapters apart?

The statistics are clear in showing that RLCs are outperforming the chapters on their respective campuses and all other SigEp chapters.

### Grades

Based on reporting from fall 2010, our RLC chapters averaged a 3.19 GPA versus our 3.08 national GPA average. More than half of the schools exceeding the all-campus-average by .25 points or more are RLC chapters. RLC chapters retain 20 percent more of their members over four years.

### Manpower

RLC chapters average 83 members versus our national average chapter size of 64.



Washington State was one of five chapters that received its plaque at Conclave to represent accreditation as a Residential Learning Community.

## Athletics

Thirty-three percent of our RLC chapters were intramural champions this past year versus eighteen percent for all other SigEp chapters.

## Partners in higher education

This past year, RLC chapters engaged over 60 faculty fellows and 20 resident scholars to aid in the academic, professional, and personal development of their members. These chapters are also re-inventing the classroom experience by providing a number of for-credit classes in their facilities, something many of our non-RLC chapters haven't thought about yet or haven't been able to replicate.

## Chapter performance

At the 2011 Conclave in August, 26 of the 47 Buchanan Cups were awarded to RLC chapters.

## What is happening in our RLCs?

Our innovative RLCs seek to provide a holistic educational experience to our members, and over the past year they have continued to break the mold.

For example, Texas Christian is soliciting faculty fellows from every academic college across campus. At Iowa State, the chapter pays for half of the cost of a tutor up front, and if a grade of B or better is achieved, the chapter will cover the other half. The chapter facility at Indiana will host a for-credit fall course on the contemporary relevance of fraternities as values-based organizations open to all students. Montana State's faculty fellow lives with the members, providing brothers with on-site academic support not available to students living on campus. At Nebraska, the former CEO of TD Ameritrade gave a presentation at the chapter about being a successful businessman. And

at Ohio State, the RLC chapter and its alumni collaborated to organize the only Greek-letter organization to have a space named (Sigma Phi Epsilon Lounge) in the new Student Union.

## What is on the horizon?

At Conclave, the RLC Task Force met with potential and new RLC chapters, and the Illinois Alpha RLC was showcased for offering seed money to a potential RLC chapter (Alabama SEC) to further cultivate the program. The Task Force is also planning to host one or two RLC Summits where aspiring and accredited RLC chapters can network, share best practices, and collaborate on future initiatives. The first RLC Summit held last year in Lincoln, Neb., was a great success. The Task Force is working with all potential and current RLCs to elevate and elect a vice president-RLC for the upcoming year. This person's responsibilities

include sustaining the RLC's accreditation with the national Fraternity, the external relationship with the institution and its partners, the education of its members, and the educational facilities (both in and out of the chapter home).

## What's next for your chapter?

Every chapter can and should strive to be a Residential Learning Community, especially since one of our strategic priorities is focused on providing an RLC for every one of our 240 chapters. Aspiring RLC chapters can start the process by contacting your regional director, district governor, and/or the RLC Task Force. Current RLC chapters will continue to blaze the trail of innovation as leaders on their campus and within this Fraternity. For more information contact, **Shane McKee**, member development manager via email at [shane.mckee@sigep.net](mailto:shane.mckee@sigep.net).



# Back from the brink: Illinois State Chapter deals with tough times

By ARCHIE MESSERSMITH, Samford '99

Walk by 400 West Willow St. at Illinois State University, and you'll see Delta Chi's letters displayed on the outside of the house, instead of the SigEp letters that hung there for years. The letters are a constant reminder of what went wrong and what could have been. The reasons, although simple, demonstrate what happens when a chapter recruits quantity over quality, removes Ritual from the chapter, has a poorly structured member development program that focuses on transferring knowledge instead of building chapter unity, and lacks adequate alumni support. Sounds like a Buchanan Cup application played in reverse, right? That is where the men of Illinois

Zeta found themselves on June 11, 2011, when an Alumni Advisory Council-led membership review pruned the chapter from 114 to 25.

When "recruitment" means turning on the lights, firing up the grill and playing volleyball in the backyard with other brothers rather than your potential new members, then you have a dangerous disconnect. If recruitment at your chapter is not 100 percent relational and is more focused on finding guys who are "legit" or "solid," then your chapter will be in the same boat as Illinois Zeta (the fourth largest SigEp chapter in 2011). Even though this chapter had a large membership base, it was severely lacking in substance. Learn from our chapter's mistakes. Beware of a vice president of recruitment who is

choosing a large new member class but they are not truly balanced men. That can be the beginning of a chapter's downward spiral. So please elect and choose wisely.

Head over to [www.isusigep.com](http://www.isusigep.com), and you will see the outpouring of alumni donations used to send all seven executive board members to Conclave. These

if Ritual went away completely. There is nothing to bind you together as brothers. You're just a bunch of guys who live together and wear meaningless letters on your chest. I know that asking collegiate members if they are doing Ritual and Ritual study might seem odd, but please, ask your undergraduate men: "When was the last time you did Epsilon?" or "Are



Archie Messersmith, Samford '99, (red shirt) is a student development professional at Illinois State and serves as Illinois Zeta's chapter counselor. He meets often with the chapter officers who have helped get the chapter headed in the right direction.

alumni hadn't been involved in years. The obvious question then would be, "Where were they?" Simple answer, "The undergraduate chapter wasn't engaging them." Engaging your alumni does not mean just sending an email invitation to homecoming. It means keeping them informed of when Ritual is, asking them to mentor new members and sending them regular updates about chapter

**Engaging your alumni does not mean just sending an email invitation to homecoming. It means keeping them informed of when Ritual is, asking them to mentor new members and sending them regular updates about chapter activities.**

activities. And if the chapter you're associated with is not doing those things, reach out to them. They do need your help, even if they don't realize it.

Although shocking to hear, Illinois Zeta was graduating members who had never been through the Epsilon Rite of Passage. We were slowly correcting that problem, but imagine what your chapter would be like

you guys having formal chapter?" If they don't know how—show them! Show them that it's important to you, and they will mirror what you do.

So where is the chapter today? Small but mighty! To go from 114 to 25 is a drastic change, but one that was sorely needed. Today we have an executive team that is fresh off a trip to Conclave and fired up and ready to dominate recruitment. We have 25 men who actually want to be in a fraternity, not just a drinking club, and are truly on board for the long haul and the work ahead of us. The chapter has recruited 28 new members this fall. We have a fully staffed Alumni and Volunteer Corporation with mentors for each undergraduate officer. This group has frequent conference calls, to ensure that the issues of old do not return to Illinois State. Most importantly, we have a Ritual that is once again at the heart of our chapter, guiding every move we make.



# Are you an all-of-the-time guy?

By ADAM RITZ, Purdue '94

I was in Lincoln to talk with the football team at the University of Nebraska. A young Huskers staffer in football operations, **Jake**

rather play for Nebraska and pay, than get a scholarship somewhere else). Wesch played for Nebraska from 2004 to 2008, and as we wrapped up

A week after my Nebraska visit, I was slated to speak at Conclave, and I knew it would be cool to showcase an interview with Jake on video

he heard that. Jake told me that Head Coach Bo Pelini says it all the time. I love it. I need to apply it. We all do. It stuck with the Conclave audience, because people started tweeting it. Are you a some-of-the-time guy or an all-of-the-time guy? So now I'm a Huskers fan, a Bo Pelini fan, and with some effort, I'll be an all-of-the-time guy.

On a related note, the first undergrads I saw at Conclave were 'all-of-the-time' guys, not 'some-of-the-time' guys. I just checked into the resort, and I was walking around checking out the pool in the evening. These guys didn't see me, but I saw them, moving quick with a lot of activity by the largest pool. I was curious and not in the mood to mind my own business, so I watched just what the hell they were doing. One guy was waving his arms and chasing a

rodent that was in the relative ocean to the other side, where Guy Two draped a towel in the water and scooped up the little furry gnawer and dragged him to safety. I walked over as they were opening the towel and inside was an exhausted water-logged baby rabbit, who would have surely drowned if these guys didn't save him. We started chatting, and I discovered they were SigEps, **Zach and Kevin**. They were 'all-of-the-time' guys. They saved a baby rabbit's life. Oh yea...I forgot to mention...They go to the University of Nebraska.

**Are you a  
some-of-the-  
time guy,  
or an  
all-of-the-  
time guy?**



Ritz facilitated a highly interactive session at this year's Conclave, challenging and engaging the audience about the consequences of their decisions.

Top, Jake Wesch, Nebraska '09, played for the Huskers in 2008.

Adam Ritz is a media personality and keynote speaker. For more information, go to [www.adamritz.com](http://www.adamritz.com).

**Wesch, Nebraska '09**, gave me a tour of the facility. It was amazing to see this place on the inside...The three-story-tall red water structure in the lobby, the Ndamukong Suh Training Facility, the endless wall of All-Americans, and even a wall devoted to their beloved Huskers walk-ons who've torn up the field both at Nebraska and in the pros (which shows how many great athletes would

the grand tour, he mentioned he was a SigEp. Husker, Pleeze! Are you kidding me? I was as excited to hear he was a SigEp as I was to see the Heisman Trophies! But when you think about it, with the amount of SigEp chapters and alumni in America, there's a good chance the guy next to you in line at Starbucks is a SigEp.

during my presentation, so I threw up the tripod and hit record. He gave a great interview about his playing days at Nebraska, his Fraternity days with SigEp, and he gave me a nugget that stood out like the sound bite of the day. While he was talking about leadership he said, "Are you a 'some-of-the-time' guy, or an 'all-of-the-time' guy?" After the camera was off, I asked him where



## Your contributions help SigEp build balanced men

By **BRET HARRELL**, Nebraska-Omaha '12

As an undergraduate leader at Nebraska-Omaha, I've had many opportunities for leadership training. I serve with deans and the chancellor, and even university regents on occasion. I am seen as a student who "knows what he is doing"...most of the time. And since you are all my brothers, I'll let you in on a little secret: I wouldn't be the person that I am without the opportunities provided to me by SigEp's leadership programs. If you're familiar with Malcolm Gladwell's work, you know that an outlier is someone who has been able to produce great things because of some degree of natural talent, but mostly by the opportunities given to him. I have been given the best opportunities in leadership training and its real world application, by the Fraternity's leadership programs, and I couldn't be more thankful for our Educational Foundation.

The Educational Foundation relies on the support of every lifetime member of SigEp and, in turn, engages the type of men who want to remain involved for life. Upon my return from the Tragos Quest to Greece, I have become one of the fortunate few brothers who have experienced the Leadership Continuum in its entirety. EDGE, the Carlson Leadership Academy, the Ruck Leadership Institute, Conclave, and the Tragos Quest to Greece. Each had lasting impacts on my leadership ability and personal life in their own way.

For my personal journey, the 2009 Conclave in Orlando is the proper place to start. Wandering the halls of the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort as a young member, I met Brother **Bill Tragos, Washington in St. Louis '56**, who was also wandering the halls in his swimming trunks and on his own personal Quest to the ice machine. I was not yet aware how very thankful I would one day be to this man, and every other brother who has contributed to the Foundation. At the Foundation Luncheon that same day, I dove headfirst into everything that Sigma Phi Epsilon has to offer, and pledged to do



Chapter President Bret Harrell participated in each SigEp leadership program.

whatever I could to return the favor. This included becoming a Foundation donor. Little did I know that my actions would be funding a small portion of my own future programs, but I believe that donating to the Foundation is its own reward anyway.

The Ruck Leadership Institute was next for me, giving me the personal leadership skills and the confidence to return to my chapter with an action plan to improve my brothers' daily experience. I learned about the difference between being a manager and a leader, and how to make myself more effective while making the hard decisions all chapters face. I again owed a debt of gratitude to the alumni facilitators, who donated their time to undergraduates like me.

One of the best hidden benefits of Ruck was that I met so many talented fraternity brothers from across the nation. I had been to EDGE as a new member, but this was a new level of exposure to engage with brothers from other chapters. It blew my mind that chapters could pursue the same goals in so many very different fashions, and I was able to translate that into fun new programs and ideas at Nebraska Beta.

Of all of my time in SigEp, the greatest gift which I have received has come from Brother Tragos and the many other Foundation donors supporting the Tragos Quest to Greece. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to truly



Tragos Quest to Greece scholars and mentors look out at the amazing view from the Acrocorinth, a peak near ancient ruins in the mountains of Greece. This year's trip took place in June.

# Bret Harrell cares about the future.

*His future. His brothers' future. Our future.*

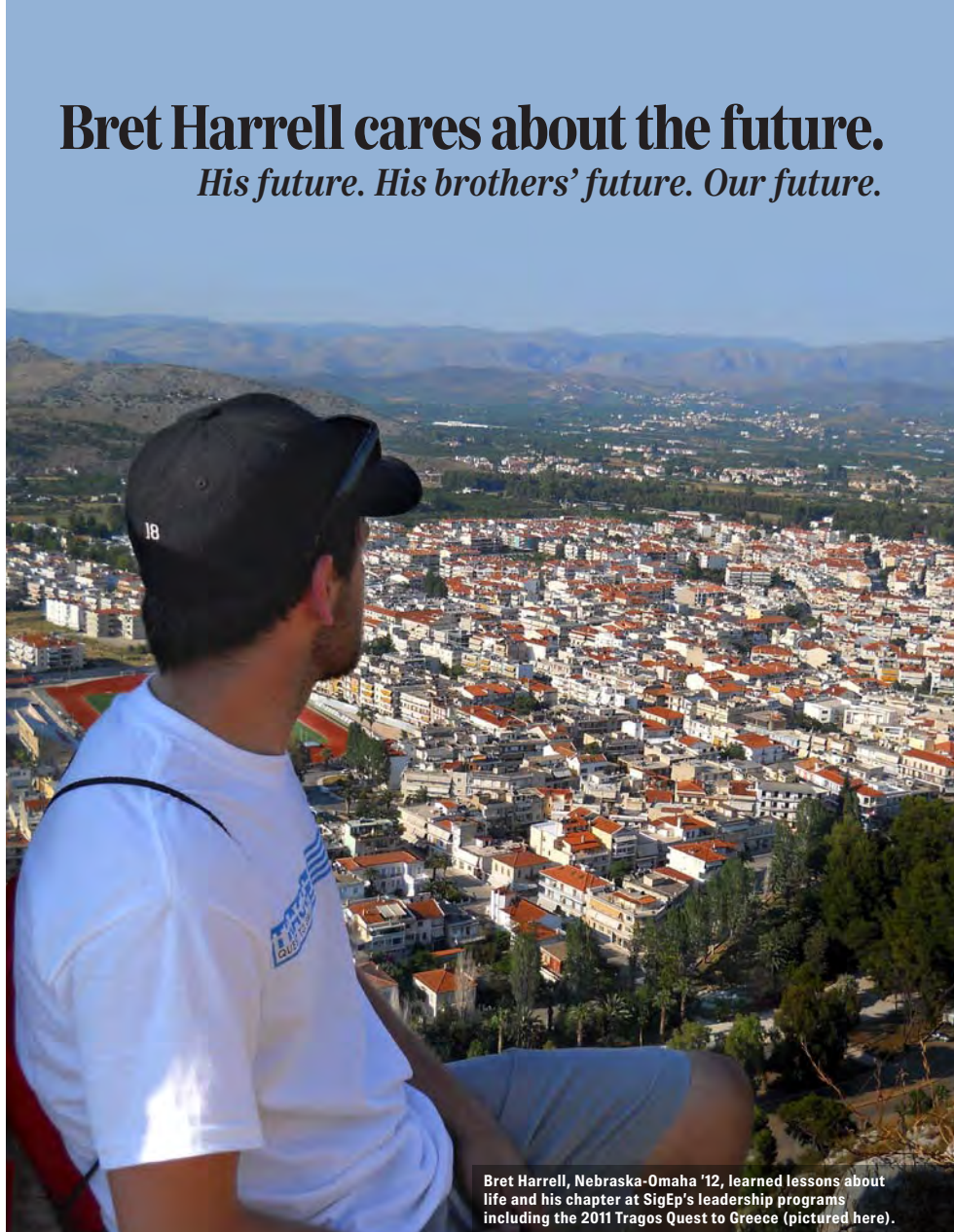
and deeply explore what drives me as a person, as a leader, and as a future global citizen. Only Sigma Phi Epsilon offers this gift, and only Sigma Phi Epsilon has the type of alumni support capable of sustaining such a marvelous program. This opportunity was offered to 16 of our most principled brothers, and under the guidance of six of our most dedicated alumni. For 10 days in June, I navigated the Greek countryside with this modern-day Band of Brothers.

But it's not those 10 days in a foreign country that matter so much—it's the difference I have been able to make within my own chapter since then. For someone with the daily responsibilities of being a leader for many years, I cannot describe the pure joy of being able to explore the world at the sides of these brothers. The Quest reminded me that it takes many diverse personalities to create and sustain the wonderful nature of a fraternity which is truly different. I built relationships in Greece with brothers who may not be leaders in a chapter like mine, and it allowed me to see the potential of the men in my chapter to rise to become the very best men that SigEp is able to build.

The Quest reminded me how to have fun and live in the moment, and I know my chapter brothers at Nebraska Beta appreciate that. I've become much more approachable and open to ideas since returning, and I'm proud to say that my chapter is poised to exceed every expectation which we and our alumni have set for ourselves for the next few years.

I hear pride in my brothers' voices as they describe having one of their own head to Greece. I know it could be possible for any one of them if they earnestly pursued Virtue, Diligence, and Brotherly Love as a balanced man throughout their undergraduate years. Knowing that the Quest is a possibility for a boy from Nebraska has helped them to set their own bars higher, and aim for the apogee at every opportunity.

Due to the belief in the true education of its members through the Leadership Continuum, and with no small thanks to those who donate, Sigma Phi Epsilon's place as a valued partner in higher education will be secured for many years to come. Thank you.



Bret Harrell, Nebraska-Omaha '12, learned lessons about life and his chapter at SigEp's leadership programs including the 2011 Tragos Quest to Greece (pictured here).

## Will you help?

SigEp senior Bret Harrell became a donor to the Foundation as a sophomore. At the 2009 Conclave, he pledged to “do whatever I can to return the favor.” Give to the Foundation’s Annual Fund to ensure that the men following in your footsteps are prepared to lead and improve the future.

## How to give:

- Mail a check in the envelope in this *Journal*.
- Give online at [www.sigepfoundation.org/donations](http://www.sigepfoundation.org/donations).
- Call 804-421-GPA1 (4721).



**Sigma Phi Epsilon  
Educational Foundation**

[foundation.info@sigep.net](mailto:foundation.info@sigep.net) | [www.sigepfoundation.org](http://www.sigepfoundation.org)  
(804) 421-GPA1 (4721)



# In Memoriam

The following is a partial listing by state of the member's home chapter of SigEps who have passed away in recent months.

Names in red are national volunteers or those who have received national recognition for their service such as the Order of the Golden Heart, Volunteer of the Year, Distinguished Alumnus or Citation.

It is our chance to remember those brothers who, through their death, have reminded us that life is transitory.

To inform the Fraternity of the death of a member, e-mail the obituary to [communications@sigep.net](mailto:communications@sigep.net) or send to: In Memoriam, Sigma Phi Epsilon, 310 South Boulevard, Richmond, Va. 23220.



Ken Maddox, Oregon State '75, and Roger VanHoozer, Washburn '72, reflect on the passing of beloved brothers during the Necrology ceremony at the 2011 Conclave's Brotherhood Luncheon.

## Arkansas

Ralph E. Martin  
Arkansas '58

Galen L. Stuart  
Arkansas State '62

## Arizona

Richard I. Murphy  
Arizona '56

## California

Robert A. Panizzon  
San Jose State '63  
James R. Smoot  
Southern California '68

## Colorado

John R. Carney  
Colorado State '47  
George J. Rober  
Colorado State '42

## District of

## Columbia

Evan E. Beyer  
George Washington '89

## Florida

Rocco F. Capabianco  
Florida Southern '67  
John W. Ille  
Florida '86

## Illinois

Michael P. Wiggins  
Illinois '91

## Indiana

Vell Avery III  
Purdue '64  
Merlin D. Knispel  
Indiana '53  
Ralph L. Slade  
Indiana State '69

## Iowa

Thomas M. Hamilton  
Drake '60  
James F. Miller  
Drake '53

## Kentucky

William N. Cole Jr.  
Kentucky Wesleyan '65  
Kenneth J. Goodman  
Louisville '51  
Kyle T. Jackey  
Western Kentucky '94  
Frank E. Maze  
Western Kentucky '69

## Maine

Aaron T. Sterling  
Maine '05

## Maryland

Charles E. Johnson  
Johns Hopkins '55

## Massachusetts

Harold A. Melden Jr.  
WPI '49  
**Robert C. Stempel**  
WPI '55 ('89 Citation recipient)

## Michigan

John H. Mansfield  
Michigan '45

## Missouri

Robert G. Bakula Jr.  
Missouri-Rolla '66  
Robert M. Laurensen III  
Missouri-Rolla '61  
Benjamin E. Whitener  
Southeast Missouri State '64

## New Hampshire

Robert E. Neill  
Dartmouth '35

## New York

Melvin D. Strickler  
Syracuse '52

## North Carolina

John L. Castleberry Jr.  
North Carolina State '48  
Edward D. Crotts  
East Carolina '74  
Robert W. McDonald  
North Carolina State '56  
Richard E. Nitschke  
Duke '35  
William B. Swanson  
Barton '61  
Alexander S. Thompson Jr.  
North Carolina '65

## Ohio

William H. Chidester  
Miami (Ohio) '71  
Reed E. Dungan  
Bowling Green State '64  
Kenneth L. Fleming IV  
Baldwin-Wallace '66  
**Hugh A. Harter**  
Ohio Wesleyan '41 ('99 Citation recipient)

Jon A. Oliver  
Ohio State '56  
Donald K. Sage  
Bowling Green State '57

## Oklahoma

**Robert M. Jernigan Sr.**  
Oklahoma '60 ('94 Distinguished Alumnus)  
Marion H. Strickland Jr.  
Tulsa '52

## Oregon

Stanley E. Blinkhorn D.V.M.  
Oregon State '55  
Matthew M. Brown  
Lewis & Clark '88  
John A. Dodds  
Oregon '66  
Tod N. Tibbutt  
Oregon State '40

## Pennsylvania

William E. Clausen  
Lehigh '60

## Tennessee

Thomas J. Williams Jr.  
Tennessee '07

## Texas

Michael A. Barragan  
Texas-Austin '79  
Steven C. Buffkin  
Texas-Austin '84

David D. Crockett  
Texas-Austin '75

Geoffrey L. Gibb  
Texas Wesleyan '95

William E. Love  
North Texas '54

Matthew T. Miller  
Texas-Austin '01

J. Mathews Robison  
Texas-Austin '53

James B. Wesley  
Houston '62

**Jack D. Wheeler\***  
North Texas '61 (Past Grand President and '77 Order of the Golden Heart recipient)

## Utah

Worth B. McNeel  
Utah State '44

## Vermont

Robert K. Horne  
Norwich '53

## Virginia

Paul W. Sanderlin Jr.  
Virginia '50

## Wisconsin

Michael J. Manning  
Marquette '91

\*The next Journal will feature a personal remembrance of Jack Wheeler.



**"This Fraternity will be different..."**

**Wear the Difference – daily.**

### Sweetheart

**013R**  
Rope Chain, 18"  
10K...\$120, SS...\$22  
(Chain sold separately.)



**snake**  
Snake Chain, 18"  
14K...\$243, GF...\$28, SS...\$15  
(Chain sold separately.)



**L2647**  
Lavalier  
10K...\$44, SS...\$25  
(Chain sold separately.)



**138**  
Pearl Sweetheart Pin  
10K...\$99



**2606**  
Badge Shape Pendant  
10K...\$104, SS...\$42

**805**  
Pearl Heart Pendant  
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**3301**  
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Silvertone\*...\$276



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**0322**  
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Silvertone\*...\$136

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Official Plain Badge  
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Official Pearl Badge  
10K...\$179



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Large Crown Pearl Badge  
10K...\$208



**0075**  
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SS...\$78



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